Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Sends Message to 'Arafat

NC0207202891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has called for exercising self-restraint in Lebanon and for stopping the military operations between Lebanese Army units and Palestinian resistance factions in southern Lebanon.

In an urgent verbal message to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted his desire to do whatever the Arab nation's higher interest dictates to ensure the Lebanese Government establishes sovereignty over its territory and secures the Palestinians' rights as guests in Lebanon until they regain their legitimate rights on their national soil.

In his message, sent to Palestine's ambassador in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, the Arab League secretary general, said he will hold contacts with the Lebanese Government tomorrow to stop the ongoing fighting in southern Lebanon.

The PLO has submitted a memorandum to the Arab League asking the League to intervene and stop the fighting between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinian factions in southern Lebanon. The PLO has expressed its readiness to hold a meeting in Cairo, Damascus, or Beirut to reach a Lebanese-Palestinian agreement that would preserve everyone's rights and put and end to the bloodshed.

PLO Issues Memorandum to Arab League, Leaders

LD0307042391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The PLO has sent an urgent memorandum about the situation in south Lebanon to the Arab leaders and the secretary general of the Arab League, calling on them to use their good offices quickly to save Palestinian blood and to stop the aggression being committed against our people and camps and positions in south Lebanon. The following is the text of the memorandum:

Ever since the march of Lebanese national reconciliation started after the al-Ta'if accord, the PLO has welcomed these well-meaning efforts to establish stability, security, and accord in Lebanon. We have facilitated this march in every way. We have always been concerned, and will continue to be concerned, about the unity of Lebanon. We are concerned about its territory, people, and institutions. We are concerned about the importance of the Lebanese Government extending its authority over all its territory and water sources, including the implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for the withdrawal of Israel from the border strip, the east of Sidon, Jazzin, and the importance of stopping the diversion of Lebanese Arab water tributories to Israel, or the establishment of settlements for the new Jewish immigrants, especially the Falasha, on Lebanese lands.

These good intentions had been manifested through the PLO's contributions toward these efforts, whether in Beirut, on the mountain, or even today in Sidon, and at the Palestinian-Lebanese meeting during the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers recently in Cairo. We have welcomed the Syrian-Lebanese accord and consider it a new and good opening in inter-Arab relations.

We have also been careful to continue contacts with the Lebanese Government through emissaries. We hoped that the official Palestinian-Lebanese meeting would be followed by other meetings to reach agreement on all issues, in the interests of Lebanon, its sovereignty, its security, and its stability, and in a way that preserves the national and social Palestinian rights in Lebanon, especially since the al-Ta'if accord and the decision of the Casablanca Arab summit did not deal with the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

We were surprised on 1 July 1991 by the Lebanese Army's entry into Sidon and its environs, despite all endeavors by the PLO to continue the dialogue with the Lebanese Government and the exertion of all good efforts so that the deployment of the Lebanese Army could be carried out in a brotherly Palestinian-Lebanese atmosphere, especially in this region, great parts of which suffer from Israeli occupation and continued Israeli aggression on Palestinians and Lebanese from land, sea, and air, reminding us by the continuing massacres committed against our people in the south and the Palestinian camps in Beirut and elsewhere.

On the morning of 1 July 1991, a clash took place between the Lebanese Army and some national Lebanese forces in the region of 'Abrah. We were surprised to see the Lebanese Army open fire on Palestinian positions. Nevertheless, we continued to exercise self-control.

We are calling on the Arab League, and through it, to all Arab states concerned about saving Palestinian blood and stopping acts of aggression against our people and our camps and positions. We are ready for any meeting with the Lebanese Government to reach an agreement that preserves the rights of all, saves bloodshed, and directs all guns to the Israeli enemy, not to the chests of the Palestinians.

We welcome a Palestinian-Lebanese meeting, or a Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian meeting, or having our Egyptian brothers take part with us, whether in Beirut or Damascus or Cairo or under the auspices of the Arab League, or through any Arab good offices.

We address this urgent memorandum to the brothers, the Arab officials, and the secretary general of the Arab League to use their good offices and efforts quickly in this dangerous, sensitive, and explosive issue.

Jordanian, Libyan, Tunisian Leaders in Cairo

JN0107182691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn will arrive in Cairo in the next few days for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on current developments in the region. Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali are also to arrive in Cairo.

MAYU, the mouthpiece of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party, reports this in today's issue and says that the visits by the three Arab leaders are to clear the air and close ranks to confront the future stage in the region. The paper points out that the talks will also focus on the peace process and bilateral relations between Egypt and the countries of Jordan, Libya, and Tunisia.

Cairo has been the scene of intensive contacts over the past few days between Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and other Arab parties for consultations on the recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir in which he threatened to declare war on Syria to end what he termed as hostile Syrian intentions against Israel.

The paper also reports that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will tour the Gulf countries after his 9 July Kuwait visit, during which he will participate in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries.

Arab League Denounces Israeli Acts in Territories

NC3006153191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Arab League Secretariat has issued a statement expressing deep concern over Israel's practices, which contradict international law and norms, as can be seen by its acts of settlement and Judaization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, whereby residents are evicted and their homes destroyed, to be replaced by immigrants from Ethiopia and the Soviet Union.

The statement added: As the Arab League strongly denounces these measures, it reaffirms that statements by Israeli officials do not contribute to the peace process or to the international efforts to secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The Arab League Secretariat warned of the concequences of these acts and appealed to the international community to oppose them firmly and forcefully and to support the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle against Israel's hostile practices.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges End to Fighting in Lebanon

NC0207210691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Tunis, 2 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has appealed to President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to help stop the ongoing clashes in the Sidon area in southern Lebanon.

In an urgent cable sent today to Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi, carried by the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, 'Arafat said: We have been surprised by the intensive attack the Lebanese Army has been inflicting on our camps and positions since noon yesterday, as well as its general attack covering all fronts and involving all types of weapons. The Army has been ignoring the positive stand the PLO has adopted from the start on its deployment and the extension of Lebanon's sovereignty over all its territories.

He added that the Army deployment issue was one of the basic topics the Palestinian delegation raised during its recent visit to Damascus.

He said: We hope to conclude a brotherly agreement with the brother Lebanese officials to preserve the higher pan-Arab interest, seeking to confront the Israeli enemy and to preserve everybody's rights.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had arrived in Egypt earlier today for talks with President Mubarak.

DFLP Claims Responsibility for Gaza Operation

JN0107180391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] today claimed responsibility for the military operation that was carried out south of Gaza this morning, where a group of DFLP fighters attacked an Israeli military patrol. The DFLP statement says 7 to 10 Israeli soldiers were either killed or wounded.

Intifadah Call 72 Issued by National Leadership

LD0207231291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jul 91

["Text" of Intifadah Call No. 72, issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah, voice of the PLO. Call Number 72, call of Jerusalem, Jerusalem is calling its sons, O masses of our heroic Palestinian people,

O makers of the glorious Palestinian history, history of the struggle and sacrifice, call of attachment to the immovable Palestinian rights to return, to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. O you who confront the oppression of the occupation and its racist army with your unyielding will and with your inexhaustable determination, you are alone the protectors of the intifadah, its achievements and Unified National Leadership. While the heroic intifadah continues, political moves in the Middle East continue to stand still between American maneuvering

and Israeli intransigence, despite the flexible line pursued by the PLO and endorsed by the Palestine National Council in its 19th session in relation to the tours of U.S. Secretary of State Baker. The United States, however, has not shown the required response [tajawub] with this flexible stance, showing on every occasion its hesitation and weakness in relation to dealing with the Israeli intransigent attitudes that reject all forms of a peaceful solution, which are represented in the plan for expansion, settlement, appropriation of land, and the attempt to impose liquidationist solutions on our national cause.

O masses of our heroic people:

The Unified National Leadership of the intifadah, the struggle arm of the PLO in the state of Palestine, has defined its open and clear attitude to all the political moves taking place in the region. This attitude is based on the resolutions of the Palestinian legislative and executory councils, which have confirmed and continue to confirm the need to realize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. These councils adopt international legitimacy as an objective and as a reference for the implementation of all the resolutions pertaining to these rights, including the right to self-determination and to set up an independent state on national soil, with noble Jerusalem as the capital.

O masses of our fighting people, the courageous intifadah, buttressed and consecrated by the sacrifices and blood of the martyrs and by the suffering and pain of the wounded and the detained as a path to liberation and independence, is currently facing suspicious attempts to abort it and empty it of its combative content through attaching some negative aspects to it, consciously or unconsciously. From this premise, the Unified National Leadership warns the masses of our people against the conspiracy to harm our successful intifadah. All these negative practices do not represent the liberational essence of the intifadah, but are emanations from the nature of the conflict with the Zionist enemy and its agents who tried to force the intifadah into practices that oppose the interest of the masses of our people. This requires our masses to show a maximum degree of vigilance and attention vis-a-vis any practices that are in contradiction with the directives and decisions of the Unified National Leadership.

O masses of the courageous intifadah, our enemies are doing their best to intensify disagreements in our ranks and nourish all the negative aspects that appear here and there to create the appropriate climates to implement their liquidation schemes against our national cause. To face up to this conspiracy, there is no choice before us but to fight and step up the intifadah, to remain attached to our decisive and efficient weapon, which is the weapon of national unity based on fighting foundations in the confrontation arena, and to despise all internal disagreements and differences that can break the knots of this unity.

O heroes of the Palestinian struggle, while the occupation authorities are continuing their hostile policy against our people, they are endeavoring to improve the features of their ugly face and get out of the predicament they are suffering from through applying some cosmetic measures to occupation by replacing some of their agents that the authorities had appointed on top of local councils, after having dismissed the elected ones. This was carried out by appointing new elements to resume the consecration of occupation in these institutions. The Unified National Leadership stresses its stand concerning this issue, which consists in rejecting the principle of appointments and persisting in demanding the dissolution of these councils by returing the elected local councils until appropriate conditions are available for the holding of elections in which freedom of expression and choice is secured away from the interference of the occupation authority in these institutions. This operation requires many measures and guarantees.

The Unified National Leadership warns against getting drawn behind the schemes of the occupation authorities whose aim is the consecration of their domination over the municipal and village councils through appointed replacements. It calls on our Palestinian people to confront this approach, direct all energies to confront the occupation, and to abandon all competition for occupying positions by appointment by occupation authorities.

O masses of our heroic people: Within the framework of the expansionist occupation policy, represented by the gradual annexation of parts of our homeland to its state, the occupation authorities have resorted to the imposition of the fait accompli policy regarding the city of Jerusalem, the capital of our independant national state, and have prohibited the majority of our people from entering it, on the feeble pretext of security, a matter that has resulted in depriving tens of thousands of our people of performing their religious rites in the holy places. Denial of access to Jerusalem has also resulted in depriving great numbers of our people of their right to travel and work, and of visiting their relatives who live between the north and the south of our state.

From the premise of the necessity to work for breaking this unjust decision against our right as a people, the Unified National Leadership has designated a week of national activities dedicated to Jerusalem, and calls on all the masses and concerned bodies to carry out the required activities, represented in:

1. On 10 July, Palestinian flags will be hoisted in all parts of the homeland, and in Jerusalem in particular. Nationalist slogans emphasizing the Arab nature of Jerusalem will be written.

2. On 12 July, mass marches will be organized from the Palestinian West Bank to Jerusalem. All activists and national and religious institutions will take part in these marches with a view to confirming the Arab nature of Jerusalem and rejecting the decision of isolating it from the other parts of our state.

3. On 13 July, a sit-in will be staged at Red Cross establishments throughout our Palestinian state by all workers of our people in Jerusalem and those who are barred from entering Jerusalem.

4. On 15 July, a general strike protesting against the Israeli policy toward the city of Jerusalem and its Arab inhabitants will be held. Let the week of Jerusalem be a week for consolidating field struggle, a week for consolidating national unity, a week for unifying the homeland and the people.

O children of the brave intifadah:

The Zionist mass media endeavor to use the interviews that it holds with some sons of our people with a view to harming the intifadah and its manifestations. The Unified National Leadership emphasizes the need for alertness to the real objectives of the Zionist media, which aims to strike at our intifadah.

While the Unified National Leadership greets our teachers and pupils and congratulates them on the completion of the school year, it urges our sons, the pupils undertaking the General Secondary School Certificate exams, to preserve the sanctity and holiness of exams and to avoid the practice of cheating and any form of chaos inside the examination hall. It urges exam supervisors not to show leniency toward any violations of this kind.

The Unified National Leadership salutes the efforts being exerted to consolidate Palestinian national unity and prepare for the holding of the Palestine National Council session. The Unified National Leadership appeals to world public opinion to shoulder its responsibilities by providing protection for the sons of our people in Kuwait. It holds the states of the alliance, especially the United States, responsible for the crimes being committed against our Palestinian people. It also urges the international community to make the government of Kuwait respect human rights. The Unified National Leadership condemns the rabid American campaign against Iraq and its heroic people, which was being waged under the umbrella of the United Nations and aimed at harming the Iraqi land, entity, and people. The Unified National Leadership confirms its solidarity with Iraq against this unjust campaign. The Unified National Leadership congratulates the masses of our people and the Islamic peoples on the occasion of the new Hegira year and on the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Palestine Women's Union, which falls on 15 July 1991. While the Unified National Leadership salutes the Palestinian woman on this occasion, it confirms the need to consolidate unified women's activities.

The Unified National Leadership urges the pupils committees to carry out voluntary work activities at their place of stay during the summer holiday and to consider this an occasion for heading to the land, reclaiming and cleaning it, and for developing our cities, villages, and camps, in addition to the holding of cultural and scientific seminars in cooperation with all student cadres and working to activate sport activity through the various clubs. The Unified National Leadership wants to remind our masses once again of the need to be very vigilant against means of disguise and camouflage practiced by Israeli intelligence men, which were lately disclosed, by forming watch committees and collectives alert to any unnatural phenomenon.

O masses of our people, O activists [munadhilun], the phenomenon of giving permits by some groups to Israeli goods merchants has emerged lately, allowing them to import or sell them, a matter which contradicts the resolutions and the directives of the Unified National Leadership. Therefore, it confirms that it will confront with every sternness such a phenomenon that contradicts the inclinations of the intifadah, which calls for the boycotting of Israeli goods that have a national alternative.

At the same time, the Unified National Leadership calls on the sellers and merchants of cement and construction materials to take into consideration the circumstances of our people and not to raise the prices of those materials that are necessary for the reconstruction of our homeland. It calls for the formation of committees for the protection of consumers. These committee will then monitor prices of products in general in addition to monitoring the quality of national products. The Unified National Leadership urges the masses of our people to implement the following struggle activities:

The first week of July will be a week in which struggle activities are to be organized. The day of national heritage, 1 July, will be devoted to the revival of popular heritage and the staging of many activities on this occasion.

On 8 July the Unified National Leadership salutes the Popular Struggle Front on the anniversary of its founding. It also salutes on this day the anniversary of the martyrdom of the prominent patriotic learder Ghassan Kanafani, member of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Unified National Leadership calls on the masses of our people to mark these two occasions with struggle activities. There will be a day of general strike on 9 July on the occasion of the intifadah entering its 44th month. The week of 10-18 July will be a week of Jerusalem activities, as mentioned above. The days 7, 19, and 28 July will be days on which businesses will open all hours of the day. There will be a general strike on 25 July in solidarity with the Palestinian detainees who are on hunger strike and with the masses of our people in Kuwait and Lebanon. There will be a day of solidarity with Palestinian detainees, men and women, on 29 July, during which female sit-ins wil be organized at the offices of the Red Cross.

[Signed] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah; state of Palestine.

PNC Members Ask 'Arafat To Apply Democracy

JN0307082291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jul 91 p 1, 15

[Text] Amman - SAWT AL-SHA'B—A number of Palestine National Council [PNC] members residing in

Jordan have affirmed that applying democracy would manifest the principle of group leadership and participation in formulating and implementing the political stand, as well as commitment to group decisions away from individual decisionmaking. This is because the current stage is characterized by dangers that cannot be open to individual interpretations, but require the maximum discussion and group participation in bearing the responsibility for the Palestinian national decision.

In a message to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, the PNC members demanded that forming the Council should take place quickly according to defined bases and a well-studied plan that guarantees the objective representation of the militant national and scientific key figures from the various Palestinian groupings, in addition to finding the appropriate formula for the participation of the sons of our people in the occupied territories. They also demanded taking serious action to decrease the Council's membership to guarantee the proper performance of its groups.

The message was signed by representatives of a number of resistence factions participating in the PLO and independent members. These were Bahjat Abu-Gharbiyah, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, Dr. Subhi Ghawshah, 'Ali Abu-Hilal, 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, Dr. Yusuf Sammur, 'Abd-al-Rahim Balluh, Taysir Raghib al-'Arur, Taysir Qubba'ah, Hamdi Matar, Mahmud Shuqayr, Hamadah Fara'inah, 'Itaf Yusuf, Lutfiyah al-Harari, Taysir Khalid, Dr. Walid Mustafa, Muhammad Abu-Sham'ah, Ahmad al-Jamal, Sajiya Khalil, Mahmud Funun, Yasir 'Amr, Mustafa Milhim, 'Ulayyan 'Allan, 'Azmi al-Khawaja, Khadijah Abu-'Ali, Jamil Salih, Rasmiyah 'Awdah, and 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-'Aziz Abu-Ghawsh.

'Arafat Offers To Make 'New Concessions'

LD2906201291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In contrast with the Israeli statements that reject peace, the PLO is showing more flexibility. Yasir 'Arafat said today that his organization is prepared to make new concessions in return for peace. This was after the Palestinian president met today with Abie Nathan, the Israeli peace campaigner. The latter, on his part, stressed the need to have dialogue instead of violence. He said: Solving the Middle East crisis is possible if the two sides, Israel and Palestine, agree to make concessions.

Abie Nathan is being sought by the Israeli law, which forbids any contact between Israelis and the PLO. This is his second meeting with 'Arafat, the first being in May.

'Arafat Expresses 'Concern' Over Situation

LD3006035491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In a meeting with a group of European parliamentarians on 29 June, the Palestinian president expressed his concern over the deterioration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the current paralysis of the peace process.

At a news conference held yesterday in Tunis, Claude Cheysson, who heads the socialist bloc in the European Parliament, said that members of the delegation have become aware of the extent of the Palestinian president's dismay over the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories and the possibility of more events of greater danger occurring in this region.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said that there is only one sovereignty in Lebanon, and that is Lebanese sovereignty. In this respect, he indicated that it is the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab territories that is threatening this sovereignty.

He also said, in a statement he made yesterday to the French news agency, that the political agreement being discussed between ourselves and the Lebanese Government stems from our view that there is one sovereignty in Lebanon, and that is Lebanese sovereignty.

Locals Instructed on Countering 'Special Units'

JN2906193991 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] A leaflet was distributed in Nabulus this morning on the so-called special Israeli Army units. It says in part: Over the past few days, hostile media have given strikingly disproportionate publicity to the operations of the so-called special units that act in concert with the army and the so-called Joint Security Apparatus. The aim is to gather intelligence to aid the effort to track down our fleeing activists, who are being hunted down on account of their action against occupation authorities and collaborators.

Filmed reports have been aired showing these units in simulated action, along with interviews of their operatives as part of a media campaign and psychological warfare against the intifadah masses and activists. Run by Zionist intelligence services, these units are nothing new; they have been active for quite some time.

The handbill adds: The aim of this psychological campaign by the intelligence services is to liquidate those on the run at this critical stage of the intifadah, since they are a component of the uprising. It also seeks to create an atmosphere of doubt and to alienate the fleeing activists from the masses, as well as reassure agents who are the principal prop for these units and intelligence services in general.

The handbill urges that the fleeing activists be afforded every kind of protection and be provided with free accommodation and food. It further urged that the population foil enemy troops each time they seek to seize a vehicle for use by the so-called special units, or, failing that, to immobilize it. Those on the run are advised to be alert to ambushes and to be discreet about their militant tasks.

The leaflet advises the masses to be especially wary toward any approaching civilian vehicle carrying soldiers, to try to obstruct its path, and to sound the alarm using all means at their disposal in the interest of saving our militant strugglers.

The handbill said in conclusion: Awareness and alertness should enable us to protect our intifadah and successes, eliminate occupation, and enhance our ability to consolidate our domestic front so we may maintain the momentum of the uprising.

Algeria

Ghozali Stresses Dialogue With Parties

LD0207220791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpts] At a meeting yesterday at the government palace with representatives of the national press, the head of government, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, made a statement in which he said: I will return to a national dialogue that will bring together all the political parties and the government so as to organize a dialogue directly after passing through the People's National Assembly to present the government's plan. [passage omitted]

Ghozali said: Through dialogue, I will try to obtain a national accord with the political parties regarding the forthcoming legislative elections. The dialogue which was mentioned by the head of government as a civilized way of finding suitable solutions to the difficulties through which the country was passing is not new. This dialogue has sometimes witnessed some difficulties, particularly with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], represented by Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who are being detained by the military authorities. Ghozali expressed regret for not having had a dialogue with them while the majority of the FIS leaders appeal for social peace and compassion.

Regarding the result of the consultations Ghozali held with the FIS leaders, which was considered by them as a negotiation, the head of government was convinced that they had regrettably lied to their activists on the negotiations in form and content. It has become clear to Ghozali now that Abbasi Madani does not desire to reach power by legitimate means, but through violence and by escalating tension in order to aggravate the situation and to bring about the downfall of the state. [passage omitted]

Before ending his statement, Ghozali expressed regret about the wait-and-see stance of the political parties which have kept quiet, about the threat and the gravity of the situation, and which have assessed the issue on the basis of a simple equation of the situation as a confrontation between the authorities and the FIS. This explains, as noted by Ghozali, the shallowness of political education among the political parties in our country.

Army Reduces Presence in Algiers

LD0207134791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The army's military presence in the capital was reduced today. A number of tanks and troops deployed in some districts were no longer in sight. The capital and its troubled districts had a calm night.

In Mostaganem [250 km west of Algiers], after a call for jihad was made from one of the city's mosques, groups of people began burning tires and erecting barricades. An official in charge of security in the province later stated that order had been restored.

Calm Returns to Capital

LD0307083791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Calm has gradually returned to the capital and its suburbs. The army has reduced its presence in some hotbeds of tension, and the capital and all the districts that had recently been the scene of disturbances spent a calm night. Some pockets of tension remain throughout the country.

'Guarded Calm' Prevails in Constantine

LD0207142791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The situation in Constantine is becoming calm. This is confirmed by a report sent in from Constantine.

[Reporter] Yes, the general situation is still dominated by guarded calm, after the disturbances experienced by Constantine, except the Amir Abdelkader quarter, where disturbances continued. The population there lived through a tense atmosphere all last night, marked by gunshots and tear-gas bombs used by the peacekeeping forces, which were reinforced by members of the National People's Army with orders to disperse the crowds that had erected barriers and barricades, set rubber tires on fire, and closed all entrances to the quarter. Chants of "there is no God but Allah" and "God is great" were also heard from the supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front in some other quarters, accompanied by intermittent gunfire.

According to eyewitnesses, these skirmishes in the Amir Abdelkader quarter left several victims. We have no more information about this. We will confirm this later this evening.

Meanwhile, guarded calm continues to prevail in other quarters of the city.

Suspected Takfir wal-Hijrah Official Arrested

LD0207221091 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Report from Constantine by radio correspondent]

[Text] The situation in Constantine is gradually becoming calm after the disturbances witnessed in some districts of the town during the past 48 hours. Regarding the losses caused by these disturbances, responsible military sources have told us that six were injured, one soldier killed, and one child killed as a result of random firing. This occurred yesterday evening at Emir Abdelkader district. Four rioters were injured, one of whom died in the hospital. These elements again attempted to attack the security headquarters during the night between 2000 and 0200 in Emir Abdelkader district.

The sources added that 16 people who were among the instigators were arrested during the incident. Nine others possessing cold steel, Molotov cocktails, and gas bottles

were seized and arrested. During the distrubences, rioting elements attempted to carry out sabotage, to set fire to gasoline stations, and to attack security forces' positions, dragging young teenagers along with them.

Among those arrested were three individuals who had in their possession important documents proving the seriousness of the planned deeds. B.'A., is suspected of being the principal official of the Takfir wa'l-Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation—Islamic fundamentalists] group in Constantine. He denies that he belongs to that group, but admits that his ideology is to instigate combatting of the ruling regime, as he claims. He has taken part in the Afghan revolution for 14 months.

B.'A. possessed the following during seizure: a military dagger and a diary with a picture of a detonator, the chemical formula for making TNT, and a list of some districts and streets in Constantine—against the name of each district was a false name of a specific person.

B.'A. had gone to Bulgaria and Turkey. In 1988 he went to Afghanistan and then to Saudi Arabia to perform the pilgrimage rites. He denies belonging to the Takfir wa'l-Hijrah organization. However, he admires the faith of the Ahl al-Sunna wa'l-Ijma' organization [Sunna is the Prophet Muhammad's sayings and doings later established as binding precedents, Ijma' means consensus]. He also took part in the Afghan revolution for 14 months. The following was taken from him: 17 rupees—Pakistani currency—plans of the passenger station in Constantine, the address of a person wanted by the Algerian security—currently in France and an active member of the Sunna wa'l-Ijma' organization, and the book of al-Tawhid [religious book].

Reportage on Yasir 'Arafat's 2 Jul Visit

Received by Bendjedid

LD0207143191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendhjedid today received Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, who arrived in Algeria yesterday.

Attacks on Palestinians Viewed

LD0207204591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, ended at midday today his visit to the Algerian capital after holding lengthy discussions with his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

During the meeting they discussed the attacks launched by the Lebanese Army against our peaceable civilians in the camps of 'Ayn al-Hulway, Miyah wa-Miyah, and their surroundings. The Lebanese Army has been fiercely shelling the two camps and all positions of our forces since yesterday. They have arrested more than 100 Palestinian civilians so far.

Bendjedid Thanked for Concern

LD0207212591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who has been on a visit to Algeria since yesterday, met with president Chadli Bendjedid and with the Lebanese mediator Muhsin Ibrahim to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon. After emerging from the president's office, 'Arafat and Ibrahim made statements to the press.

The following is the statement made by 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] We have come to visit our brothers here in Algeria because of our interest in Algeria's pan-Arab responsibilities, and its responsibilities toward Palestine and Lebanon. We wanted to inform President Bendjedid of the painful developments which have taken place recently, and which coincided with the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the Sidon region, although we facilitated the deployment of the Army.

We still insist and stress the PLO's commitment to the sovereignty, security, and independence of Lebanon, and the right of Lebanese authority to extend throughout its territory including the border belt occupied by Israel, and Israel's refusal to implement UN Resolution 425. [sentence as heard] However, we will remain positive in dealing with this issue. Yesterday, we facilitated the deployment of the Army in the town of Sidon and the area that is adjacent to the Israeli and Lahad forces' presence, in the Kafar Falus area.

We started off with this good intention, and we have asked the brother president—in addition to his many problems, that he does not forget the concerns of the Palestinian people and those of Lebanon—to help us open a constructive dialogue with our brothers in the Lebanese Government. This way we can turn the rifles, all the rifles, towards the Israeli enemy, far removed from any clash here or there, with dialogue, constructive dialogue, as our guiding principle for sound political, social, fraternal, Arab and pan-Arab relations between us and the brothers in the Lebanese Government. this will remain our objective. The president has promised to make equal efforts with our brothers in Lebanon and Syria. He has delegated the foreign minister to follow up these sensitive issues with us while he makes other contracts in his own way. [end recording]

Next is the statement made by the Lebanese mediator, Muhsin Ibrahim, after his meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid.

[Begin Ibrahim recording] I would like to thank President Chadli Bendjedid for the interest he showed during our meeting with him today, in the company of president of the state of Palestine brother Yasir 'Arafat—interest in Lebanon and Lebanese-Palestinian relations. I am sure that Algeria's effort with the Lebanese Government and our brothers in the Syrian leadership will have the

utmost effect on enabling us to overcome all the obstacles which some people attempt to plant in the way of the liberation of southern Lebanon, and will help take Lebanese-Palestinian relations into an era of constructive positiveness and fraternity.

In this context, I would like to stress the importance of what was stressed by the brother president of the state of Palestine that there is absolutely no room for accepting any clashes between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinian forces, that there has to be an understanding on everything, that it is possible to reach an understanding on everything, and that dialogue is the way of reaching a solution to all problems, whether these problems are operational or concerned with Lebanese-Palestine relations.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to call for a speedy announcement on the opening of dialogue between the Lebanese Government and the PLO. In the atmosphere of positive, fraternal, and constructive dialogue, national and pan-Arab solutions will be found for all issues. Again, we thank President Chadli Bendjedid for the concern he has shown. I believe that Algeria will be with us in every way in this [word indistinct] problem. [end recording]

Paper on Israeli Aim To Attack Nuclear Reactor

LD0207150591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] the latest issue of the weekly L'OBSERVATEUR says that the Egyptian Government may have addressed an official warning to the United States over the consequences of a possible Israeli act of military aggression against Algeria, according to the paper MISR AL-QANAH, organ of the Egyptian Al-Wafd party.

The paper, which attributes this report to informed diplomatic sources, points out that the Egyptian authorities are in possession of important and grave information confirming the determination of the Tel Aviv administration to launch aerial attacks on the Algerian nuclear reactor in Ain Oussera [200 km south of Algiers].

National People's Assembly Session Concludes

LD0107221691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the spring session of the National People's Assembly, which resumed yesterday with the holding of closed sessions, were concluded this afternoon. On the final meetings of this session, radio correspondent [Fodhil] Saadeddine talks to us from the headquarters of the assembly.

[Saadeddine] Today's evening session was the last of the spring session of the National People's Assembly. At the start of the meeting, Abdelaziz Belkhadim, the chairman of the National People's Assembly, spoke about the circumstances through which the country is passing. He called for reason, wisdom, and the sowing of mutual affection and compassion. We should learn how to differ, how to rise above our partisan interests, how to take care of the interests of the nation and the homeland, and how to work for the comfort of the citizens. [passage omitted]

Afterwards, he mentioned that the assembly is due to meet in two days time in order to debate the new government's program, in order to devote ourselves to the preparation of the legislative elections next autumn, God willing [as heard]. [passage omitted]

After that, and in accordance with the internal procedures of the National People's Assembly, the session concluded with the national anthem and recitals from the holy book of God. [passage omitted]

Egypt

PRC Premier Arrives in Cairo for Official Visit

NC0207144591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 July (MENA)—Chinese State Council Premier Li Peng and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon for an official five-day visit at President Husni Mubarak's invitation. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his wife led the group that received the Chinese premier at the airport.

The Chinese premier was accorded an official reception and shook hands with senior members of the reception delegation, including Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy and head of the escort mission accompanying the distinguished Chinese guest during his visit; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs; the ministers of housing, industry, economy, finance, manpower, education, and People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; the ministers of state for military production, scientific research, international cooperation, and cabinet affairs; the Armed Forces chief of staff; the governor of Cairo; the commanders of the Armed Forces' air, ground, and air defense branches; a representative of the Armed Forces' naval forces; and the Chinese Embassy staff in Cairo.

Makes Statement

NC0207185891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 July (MENA)—In an arrival statement, the Chinese premier expressed his wish to hold friendly talks with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and high-ranking Egyptian officials on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. He also expressed his hope to personally observe the Egyptian people's great achievements in all fields of national action.

The Chinese premier expressed his happiness at visiting Cairo on the first leg of his tour of the Middle East and

the Gulf. He expressed the Chinese Government's appreciation of the Egyptian people and Government.

The Chinese premier praised the historical relations between China and Egypt, two countries known for their ancient civilizations, and expressed the hope that his visit will strengthen bilateral relations in all fields.

He also praised the two people's ties, which go back 2,000 years, their contribution to human civilization, and their struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

He explained that Egypt and China established diplomatic relations 25 years ago, and these relations have been characterized by constant cooperation and deep understanding between the two countries.

Concluding his statement, the Chinese premier expressed his confidence that relations will be strengthened between the two countries in a way that will serve each people's interests and will consolidate world peace and international development.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Sudanese Ties

NC0207181891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1542 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, 2 July (MENA)—The Middle East News Agency [MENA] has learned that today's talks between the two Arab leaders Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, dealt with the recent developments in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

At one of the popular conferences in Sudan, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed the importance of unity and solidarity among Egypt, Libya, and Sudan, as well as the need for efforts to strengthen ties among the three countries, because good relations are required for unity and genuine arab solidarity.

MENA has also learned that the talks between Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi were positive and fruitful, were conducted in an absolutely friendly atmosphere, and were characterized by understanding and a spirit of friendship and mutual trust between the two leaders.

Meanwhile, Egyptian ministers held bilateral talks with their Libyan counterparts who were accompanying Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Attend Official Dinner

NC0207184391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The two Arab leaders Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, arrived at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this afternoon, where President Mubarak will host a dinner in honor of brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his delegation this evening.

The two leaders Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi held important talks during the train ride from Cairo to Alexandria, discussing the latest developments in the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, and security arrangements in the Gulf.

The two leaders also discussed ways of strengthening cooperation between the two countries in various fields and the implementation of agreements the two leaders reached at recent meetings, particularly in connection with strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and trade fields. [passage omitted]

Resume Talks in Alexandria

NC0207200691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1829 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, 2 July (MENA)—Leaders Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, resumed their talks in Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this evening. They continued the discussion of the issues they reviewed during their train journey from Cairo to Alexandria this afternoon, most importantly the latest developments in the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, security arrangements in the Arabian Gulf, Egyptian-Sudanese relations, and the future of ties between Egypt and Libya.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1831 GMT on 2 July adds: "President Husni Mubarak held a dinner party in honor of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and his accompanying delegation in Alexandria's Ra's al-Tin Palace this evening. It was attended by members of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations and a number of senior government officials."]

Hold Third Round of Talks

NC0307093191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, 3 July (MENA)—The two Arab leaders, President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, resumed their meetings this morning and held their third round of talks at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria with members of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations in attendance.

The Egyptian delegation included Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; Defense Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi; Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of tansport, communications, and maritime transport; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister and head of the honor team escorting the Libyan leader; Minister of Local Administration Dr. Mahmud al-Sharif; and Egyptian Ambassador to Libya Mustafa al-Shadhili.

The talks were attended on the Libyan side by the Libyan counterparts of the Egyptian ministers.

President Mubarak is scheduled to host at noon today a banquet honoring the Libyan leader and his delegation.

Libya Orders Payment of Egyptians' Emoluments

NC0307101991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, 3 July (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi ordered today the transfer of the salaries and emoluments for all Egyptian doctors and teachers working in Libya to Cairo within 48 hours.

A telephone call was placed this morning from Ra's al-Tin Palace to the concerned officials in Tripoli, who were told of brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi's instructions.

Kuwait

Ruling Permits Execution of Officials

NC0307105991 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Amman, July 3 (AFP)—A Palestinian Moslem fundamentalist group issued a religious ruling here Wednesday that it said allowed the execution of any Kuwaiti official responsible for mistreating Palestinians in the emirate.

Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, head of Islamic Jihad Bayt al-Maqdis, said Iraq's occupation of Kuwait had been legal because it recovered "parts of the Arab nation," which had become a cluster of states and mini-states. "Because every unifying action is legal," Shaykh As'ad said in a statement typed in Arabic and signed by him.

He also said it was "legal to kill any member of the Kuwaiti Government for having participated in the torture or murder of Arabs in general or Palestinians in particular." Every member of the "ruling royal family, head of security services, officer, soldier, and militia member, is directly responsible for these murders and cases of torture and cannot free himself from blame by claiming to have executed orders," the shaykh said.

Shaykh As'ad also called "on the entire Moslem nation to intervene to save hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Arabs from atrocious crimes." The Islamic Jihad Bayt al-Maqdis is active in the Israeli-occupied territories and has claimed responsibility for several attacks against Israelis, including one in Egypt and another on the Egyptian-Israeli border.

Palestinians 'First Target' for Weapons Collection

NC0207142991 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 2 Jul 91

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Kuwait City, July 2 (AFP)—Kuwait's beleaguered Palestinians are expected to be the first target of police sweeps for weapons, diplomatic and police sources said Tuesday on the final day of an amnesty for handing in arms.

A Western diplomat voiced concern at the tense situation caused by weapons left over from the Iraqi occupation. "They may start with the Palestinians first. It is a link that the government can attack without risking revulsion or uproar on the part of Kuwaitis," he said. "If the government were to go at Kuwaiti militias, there would most certainly be uproar, and potentially an upheaval," the diplomat said, declining to be identified.

Police First Lieutenant Khalid al-Kandary told Agence France-Presse that relatively few weapons were coming in ahead of the deadline ending an amnesty for arms possession. He was directing weapons collection at Sabah al-Salim police station, one of five collection-points. The station covers the largest area of collection, including the Palestinian neighborhood of Hawwali, he said.

Only 1,000 arms had been handed in, and 300 of these were shotguns with licenses pre-dating the Gulf war, Lt. al-Kandary said. This would make less than 5,000 arms for all five centers, he estimated. He said thousands of the Kalashnikov machine-guns, mortars, recoilless rifles, anti-aircraft guns and tons of ammunition left by retreating Iraqi troops in late February were still in private hands.

Interior Minister Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah has said a hunt would be launched for illegal weapons held by foreigners and Kuwaitis after the deadline has elapsed.

The tactic would be first to collect weapons from Palestinians, Lt. al-Kandary said. "If we check with the Palestinians, this will prepare the Kuwaitis. If they know the Palestinians don't have guns, the Kuwaitis will give up their guns," the officer said.

Senior interior ministry officials refused to confirm the lieutenant's statement that Palestinian would be the first target. All nationalities in Kuwait appear to be holding onto their weapons, one official said.

A deadline was to fall Tuesday at 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) for Kuwaitis to surrender weapons or face 15 years in jail for possession. "We're not afraid of the searching but want them to show respect while they search," said Tawfiq 'Uqal, 26, a Palestinian who lives in the Hawwali neighborhood of Kuwait City. Many Kuwaitis accuse the Palestinian community of collaborating with the Iraqis during the seven-month occupation.

One section of Hawwali has already been closed off by a long, five-foot (one-and-a-half-metre) sand wall. It is the same kind of embankment put up after Kuwait's liberation from the occupation to stop cars from avoiding check-points. "They've made a demarcation," said the Western diplomat about the earthworks. "They might try to do Palestinian areas first, to avoid a Kuwaiti uproar," he said about possible house-to-house searches.

The senior Palestine Liberation Organization official in Kuwait, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabir, told Agence France-Presse: "We're not afraid of them searching homes. "The Palestinians are the ones who want the laws applied. It is the right of the government to collect weapons." He said the Palestinians did not have weapons and that a search would settle the question once and for all.

But another Palestinian official, who asked not to be named, said: "What I am afraid of is that discipline in the Army and police is very low. During the search for weapons, if officers do not accompany their soldiers and are not strict with them, I'm afraid many soldiers will commit new crimes."

But Mr. 'Abd-al-Jabir said he was confident since the government had now asserted its authority, in contrast to the problems shortly following liberation in late February when there was a breakdown in law and order.

Kuwaiti weapons are believed to be held by resistance forces still warily watching the government as well as various militias, including those of the minority Shiite Muslim community.

Prime Minister Briefs Ambassadors on Situation

LD0107204991 London KUNA in Arabic 1621 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 Jul (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, emphasized the importance of the role played by Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad in order to demonstrate Kuwait's bright and humane image in the international community.

At the same time His Highness stressed the importance of the missions' responsibility in exerting continuous efforts to monitor the false rumors spread by the various media organizations and to explain all the facts in this concern in order to bring out Kuwait's civilized face and its commitment to its principles.

This came in a meeting at the Council of Ministers between the heir apparent and prime minister and heads of Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad, which was attended by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; the minister of state for cabinet affairs; minister of social affairs and labor; the minister of defense; the minister of the interior; the minister of justice and legal affairs; the minister of information; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials. [passage omitted]

Here is the full text of a statement given by Dari 'Abdallah al- 'Uthman, the Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, after the meeting:

His Highness the heir apparent and prime minister explained to the heads of diplomatic missions the aims of this meeting, which are, to inform them about the latest developments in the local arena in all fields, and to inform them about the truth concerning the unrealistic and untrue information spread by certain of the media. These falsehoods are aimed at harming Kuwait and violating its civilized status which was reflected in the international interest in the occupation of Kuwait and the international unanimity on ending this hateful occupation. [passage omitted]

His Highness stressed the importance of preserving the international support which Kuwait enjoys. [passage omitted]

Those present were also briefed by Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar, minister of justice and legal affairs, on the trial of those accused of collaborating with the Iraqi invasion forces during their occupation of Kuwait. He also explained to them the measures which have been adopted following the heir apparent and prime minister's instructions to guarantee that the trials are held in accordance with the country's laws, as well as to ensure that the accused are not unjustly dealt with in order to honor the path which Kuwait has relentlessly followed of affirming the supremacy of law and justice. [passage omitted] The diplomats were then briefed by Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir on the security situation in the country and efforts being exerted to bring about security and stability in the country, as well as the measures adopted to secure security requirements in light of the consequences of Iraq's treacherous aggression against Kuwait.

Also discussed were topics concerning implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq, according to the agreements signed by the two countries between 1932 and 1963, as well as the need for the Iraqi authorities to hand over prisoners and detainees still in their hands and the need to pay retribution for damages sustained by Kuwait as a result of the treacherous aggression. [passage omitted]

German Economics Minister Discusses Cooperation

LD0107151991 Hamburg DPA in German 1121 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait City (DPA/VWD)—Federal Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann met in Kuwait today with the head of the oil emirate, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al-Sabah. The talks about closer economic cooperation between German and Kuwait were also attended by Minister for Commerce and Industry 'Abdullah Hasan al-Jarallah. Moellemann is accompanied by a delegation of 40 German business people and financial experts. His visit to Kuwait is part of a trip to several Gulf states.

According to al-Jarallah, the two sides also intend to discuss technological assitance for extinguishing the burning oil wells and to reword the existing trade agreements between Kuwait and Germany. German investments and a double tax agreement will also be discussed. Moellemann is to travel on to Saudi Arabia later today.

183 Oil Well Fires Terminated; 600 Burning

LD0207175691 London KUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Hamud al-Ruqbah said that the oil wells in Kuwait set on fire by the Iraqi regime will be brought under control by the end of March next year. Dr. al-Ruqbah noted that the number of wells destroyed by the Iraqi regime during the occupation period was 730 wells, 60 of which were partially damaged.

In a statement to KUNA, following his participation in the meeting held by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah with the heads of Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad, he added that fires are burning in 600 wells, while 80 wells are leaking oil.

The Kuwaiti oil minister stated that he reviewed with the heads of Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad the oil situation of the damaged wells and the ecological damages resulting from that. He added that up to two days ago some 183 burning wells had been brought under control. However, it is difficult to set a fixed time for the operation of extinguishing all burning wells. Nevertheless, he expected that control over them will be achieved by the end of March next year.

Concerning oil production in the area divided between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, he explained that "daily production in the divided area in the offshore part has reached 130,000 barrels per day," pointing out that "this level of production will go up gradually during the coming months to reach 300,000 barrels per day divided between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

Oman

Iranian Envoy Discusses New Security Arrangements

LD0107154991 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 1, IRNA—The Persian Gulf situation and the pace of developments regarding the new security arrangements in the region were discussed in a meeting in Muscat between Iranian Ambassador to Oman Mohammad 'Arab and Omani Foreign Minister [as received] Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi Bin-Abdullah Monday [1 July].

Besides Tehran-Muscat relations, the two sides also exchanged views on certain issues of mutual interest related to the region and also on ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Bin-al-Alawi assessed as "positive" the pace of developments regarding the Persian Gulf security arrangement and reiterated the need for all-out cooperation and coordination between the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council member states and the Islamic Republic.

Saudi Arabia

Official Denies Report of Repainted Aircraft

LD0207152991 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Jeddah, July 2, SPA—An official source of the civil aviation has denied a report of the Iranian ALAM AL-ISLAM newspaper on Sunday [30 June] which alledged that Saudi authorities have discovered eight Kuwaiti planes which had been repainted with the colors of the Iranian airlines company. The source described the report as totally untrue and regretted the fabricated news by the said paper.

The source said all Iranian planes are arriving and leaving King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport according to schedules presidented by the Iranians and no flight has been delayed.

United Arab Emirates

Oil Minister on Paris Petroleum Symposium

JN0307065691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Paris, 2 Jul (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and natural resources in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has emphasized that the ministerial symposium on dialogue between producers and consumers, which was held in Paris today, has been very successful because it provided a chance for dialogue between the two sides.

In a statement reported by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, he said the symposium dealt with four main topics: Industrial and investment cooperation, the mechanisms of the market and the way it functions and energy, and environment protection.

He added that the participants concentrated on the importance of stabilizing oil prices which will be beneficial to both parties.

He also said that the participants focused on the importance of cooperation between producers and consumers to boost the production capacity and avoid oil market shocks.

The UAE petroleum minister pointed out that the conference participtants discussed the future markets and their role in serving the oil sector, concentrating on the positive elements in these markets which call for securing flexibility and diversified expertise for dealers. They also discussed some negative elements in these markets, represented by speculations which lead to higher oil prices. He stressed that all have concentrated on the importance of environment and the need to tackle this subject in a comprehensive manner, pointing out that some have considered that oil and gas are the least harmful to environment compared with other sources of energy like coal and nuclear energy.

Kurdish Leaders Discuss Proposals for Accord

Barzani, Talabani Deny Differences

NC0207151591 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Shaqlawah, Iraq, July 2 (AFP)—Top Kurdish leaders vowed here Tuesday to pursue peace talks with Baghdad amid calls from Iraqi opposition groups in exile to end the negotiations and continue a nationwide uprising.

Negotiations are on the right track, according to representatives of the seven-party Kurdistan Front, who have been meeting for a week in this northeastern area under their control.

The top two Kurdish officials, Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader Mas'ud Barzani and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan chief Jalal Talabani, said they were in a "hurry" to reach an accord and denied there were differences between them.

"We agree until now on all the points and we have submitted joint proposals to the Iraqi Government," Mr. Talabani said. "If he agrees, we are ready to sign in several hours."

Kurdish sources have reported that the two had differing approaches, saying that Mr. Barzani was in a hurry to sign an agreement while Mr. Talabani sought to drag out talks in order to extract concessions from Baghdad. [passage omitted]

In Damascus, opposition spokesmen said the whole spectrum of Iraqi opposition groups called Tuesday for an end to the peace talks and for the popular uprising to continue.

Representatives of 30 opposition groups meeting in the Syrian capital since Saturday have decided to send a delegation to Iraqi Kurdistan to "convince the Kurdish leaders to end" the talks, Joint Action Committee spokesman Bayan Jabir told Agence France-Presse.

The Joint Action Committee—which forms the core of the Iraqi opposition with its 17 parties and resistance movements—has been charged with developing a plan for continuing the popular uprising against Baghdad.

The Iraqi opposition comprises Shiite, secular and all Kurdish movements, notably Mr. Talabani's and Mr. Barzani's groups which have been negotiating with Baghdad since April.

An opposition member in the Syrian capital said the Kurdistan Front delegation, which includes all major Kurdish groups, did not object to the opposition's decision.

Mr. Talabani and Mr. Barzani, who have been meeting here to formulate their negotiating position with Baghdad, did not mention any dates for a new meeting between a Kurdistan Front delegation and the Iraqi Government.

During the past two months in Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met the two leaders separately.

Mr. Barzani said a new meeting could take place next week, but not necessarily in Baghdad. He suggested that a government delegation could come to Shaqlawah, which is about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Irbil, the main Kurdish city which is under Iraqi Government control.

The two Kurdish leaders also said that they had made progress on the main points on autonomy for Kurdistan, particularly the creation of legislative and administrative institutions. But they still have not agreed on the administrative limits of "the autonomous province of Kurdistan."

Sources close to the Front said Mr. Talabani has adopted a harder line on this point than Mr. Barzani and wants to include the oil city of Karkuk in the autonomous province. [passage omitted]

Talabani Aide on Government Conditions

NC0207203291 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 1 Jul 91 p 9

[Ufuk Tekin report: "Kurds Have Been Unable To Agree With Saddam Husayn"]

[Text] Shaqlawah, Irbil—The Kurdish organizations waging a struggle against the Iraqi Government have rejected the terms of the agreement proposed by the Saddam Husayn regime after concluding that they were "unacceptable." Ahmad Bamarni, an assistant to Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] leader Jalal Talabani, has revealed that the Kurds can never accept these terms, which would require them to "sever relations with the outside world, lay down their arms, and depend on the Iraqi regime in the political, military, and cultural fields." Bamarni added, however, that the question of the "autonomous Kurdish region" can still be discussed.

Asked about the proposed deployment of a rapid-reaction force in Turkey, Bamarni said that the Kurds would prefer that the force "be deployed in Kurdistan in Iraq."

The Kurdish Front continued working on the "proposal it will submit to Baghdad" on an autonomous Kurdish region until the early hours of the morning at their meeting in Shaqlawah, which is near Irbil, two days ago. Speaking on behalf of the Kurdish Front, which consists of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], the PUK, the People's Party of Kurdistan, the Communist Party of Iraq, the Socialist Party of Iraq, and the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, Ahmad Bamarni said that the Front will submit two drafts to the Iraqi Administration demanding the "normalization of the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and the adoption of a law for autonomy within the framework of the democratization of Iraq."

Bamarni declined to give details about the proposals, but noted that they will be submitted to the Iraqi Administration after being approved by the members of the Kurdish Front. Bamarni noted that PUK and the DPK had reached agreement on 80 percent of the contents of these drafts, but added that the remaining 20 percent includes some important points. Barmani also said that

the Kurdish delegation which will hold talks with the Baghdad administration will include technical experts, explaining the reason for this step as follows: "We have concluded that the Iraqi Administration played with words in its response to our proposals. For example, it agreed that elections should be held to establish a provincial assembly in the Kurdish region, which would then elect a Kurdish governor for the area. The Iraqi officials accepted this, but added the provision that the governor should be under the jurisdiction of the central government, that is, the Baghdad administration. Another example concerns the question of Kurdish education in the Kurdish region. Our demand in this regard was accepted, but the Iraqi officials said that work in this field must be subject to the control of the central authority and in line with the Ba'th Party's ideology. The experts will be included in the delegation to uncover any attempt at deception."

Bamarni recalled that the Kurdish Front has rejected Baghdad's response to the two proposals the Kurds submitted some time ago. He outlined the main points of the Baghdad response as follows:

1. The Kurds are an integral part of Iraq's political, military, and cultural structure.
2. The Kurds will fight alongside the rest of the country against internal and external enemies.
3. The Kurdish organizations will sever all ties with the outside world. Any future relations will be established through the Ba'th Party.
4. Kurdish peshmergas will lay down their arms within two months.

Wolfowitz Visits Northern Iraq

U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz visited northern Iraq yesterday. ANATOLIA has reported that Wolfowitz traveled to the town of Sarsank from Istanbul to assess the situation there yesterday morning. He met with Lieutenant General John Shalikashvili, commander of the coalition forces in northern Iraq, and then attended a briefing with other officials of the coalition forces.

Barzani on Need for Negotiations

PM0307090491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Jun 91 pp 1, 4

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Barzani Tells AL-HAYAH: Agreement With Baghdad Inevitable; Negotiations With Saddam the Most Difficult Decision of My Life"]

[Text] Shaqlawah (Iraqi Kurdistan)—Mas'ud Barzani, co-chairman of the Kurdistan Front, has confirmed that the establishment of a democratic system in Iraq was the main topic in the negotiations with Baghdad. To hold these negotiations, he said, was the "most difficult" decision of his life. He said that an agreement with Baghdad was "inevitable." He added: "We will never contribute to the repression of the Shiites. The days of repression are over. We want our agreement with the government to end the terror in the country. So long as democracy for all Iraqis—not just the Kurds—is our main objective, how could we contribute to the repression of the Shiites?"

In an interview with AL-HAYAH and two British papers at his Democratic Party of Kurdistan headquarters in Shaqlawah, he explained his position on the question of the commitments that Baghdad asked the front to make for the normalization of the situation in Kurdistan, including the cutting of ties with the West. He said: "We have always had ties with the West, but it was never our aim to expose Iraqi national security to any danger. The ties were for our protection. If we reach agreement with Baghdad, our relations with the outside world will continue, but perhaps the methods would change under the agreement. I acknowledge that the nature of these relations must change. We always feel grateful to the West for helping us and we cannot possibly sever our ties with it."

Asked if the alliance forces' decision to delay their withdrawal from northern Iraq has helped the Kurds in their negotiations with Baghdad, he said: "We know that the West—and particulary the United States—is the decisionmaking center in matters relating to this issue. There can be no doubt that the recent stances have affected the course of the negotiations and have helped us to some extent."

He said that a call for the alliance forces' withdrawal was not raised in the negotiations as a Kurdish commitment. He added that "the presence of these forces came at a crucial time in our country's history, but I do not believe they will stay forever. They will most likely withdraw when a reassuring situation for the Kurds is created." He said that the alliance has "its own decisions and commitments to the Kurdish people," but, he asked: "Why has the secure area been confined to Dahuk? We asked at the time for these secure areas to be extended, but that was not achieved. This means that they decide these matters without consulting us. We have no influence on them."

He said that he still held the view that agreement with Baghdad was "inevitable." He added that everything in the world has changed, and President Saddam Husayn may have "learned the lesson, too. They (in Baghdad) are saying that the old ways are finished and must be changed." He also said that he did not believe that Saddam Husayn would be disappointed when the Kurdish delegation returns to Baghdad for more negotiations, and not for the signing of an agreement. He said that there is give and take in all negotiations, "and we of the Kurdistan Front started together and will finish together. There are no differences between us. Our position is united. When (Jalal) Talabani went to Baghdad he had authorization to sign, but did not sign. When I went there I had authorization to sign, but did not sign. We both preferred to hold further consultations, because the matter concerns all Kurds. We want a full agreement among us (the front) before signing, because we want to secure the Kurdish public's support for us. Our position would thus be stronger, because new ideas would strengthen the future agreement."

Barzani described his decision to negotiate as "the most difficult decision of my life," but he added that, having reached that decision, he only looked to the future. He added: "Are we going to continue with the fighting and the tragedies? It is my conviction that there comes a time when we have to stop. We have suffered a lot. I feel that we must give peace and stability a chance."

He also said: "True, members of my tribe and my family, including brothers, have been killed, but my personal and direct tragedy is part of the greater tragedy of the entire Kurdish people. Many Kurds have been killed, and I feel responsible for them. This is why we have made no special requests for my tribe. We talked about them all—not about the 8,000 Barzanis (who were detained by the authorities in 1983 and have since disappeared.) In Baghdad they told us that whoever is still alive would be released, but there would be no talk about the dead."

Asked if the Pesh Mergas would return to the mountains if no agreement is reached between the two sides, Barzani said: "We will decide that when the time comes, but my inclination is positive and I believe we will agree."

Was Barzani tired of the mountains? He replied: "I am not tired. This is my homeland. The mountains have always protected us. We did not fight for the sake of fighting, nor just to demonstrate courage. We were always defending ourselves and pursuing a political objective. Mountain climbing is no hobby for us."

In conclusion, he said that, in his view, the time is now ripe for a "good agreement" with the government.

Kurdish Autonomy Agreement Published

PM0307075891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jun 91 p 6

["Text" of autonomy draft law for Kurdistan]

[Text] In the name of the people, the Revolution Command Council [RCC]:

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution and with the 11 March 1970 statement, the RCC, at its session on -/-/1991 [as published], decided to issue the following law number (—) [as published] for the year 1991:

Autonomy law for the region of Kurdistan:
Chapter I:
Section 1: The general basis:

Article 1:
A. The region of Kurdistan will enjoy autonomy and will be referred to as "the region" wherever it is mentioned in this law.
B. The region will be defined as that area where the majority of the population are Kurds, and the general census will confirm the boundaries of the region in accordance with the 11 March statement. The 1957 census regulations will determine the ethnic characater of the absolute majority of the population in the areas where a general census is to be held.
C. The region will be considered a corporate administrative unit enjoying autonomy within the framework of the legal, political, and economic unity of the Iraqi Republic. The administrative divisions within it will meet the provisions of the governorates law while taking account of the provisions of this law.
D. Irbil will be the center of the autonomy administration.
E. The autonomy institutions [Hay'at] are part of the Iraqi Republic's institutions.

Article 2:
A. The Kurdish language is an official language in the region together with the Arabic language.
B. The Arabic and Kurdish languages will be the teaching languages at all stages and in all Kurdish educational establishments in the region. That will be in accordance with provision E of this article.
C. There will be educational facilities in the region for Arabs where teaching will be in Arabic, with the Kurdish language as a compulsory subject.
D. All people of the region will have the right to choose the schools they wish to attend, regardless of their mother tongue.
E. There will be educational facilities wherever possible outside the region where teaching will be in Kurdish, with the Arabic language as a compulsory subject.
F. All stages of education in the region will be subject to the general education policy of the state.

Article 3:
A. The rights and freedoms of Arab nationals and the minorities in the region are guaranteed under the provisions of the Consitution and relevant laws and decisions. The autonomy administration is committed to guaranteeing the exercise of these rights and freedoms.
B. Arab nationals and members of the minorities in the region will be represented in all the autonomy institutions on the basis of their proportion of the population of the region and will occupy posts in accordance with the laws and decisions regulating them.

Article 4:
The judiciary is independent and answerable only to the law. Its formations in the region are an integral part of the judicial structure of the Iraqi republic.

Section 2: The financial basis:

Article 5:
The region is an independent financial unit within the state's financial unity.

Article 6:
A. The region will have its special budget within the unified overall state budget.
B. The preparation and regulation of the region's budget will be subject to the same rules and principles used in the preparation of the unified overall state budget.

Article 7: The region's budget will comprise the following budgets:

A. The region's current budget.
B. The budgets of the administrative units' councils.
C. The budgets of the municipal councils.
D. The investment budget.
E. The budgets of the region's production units linked to the autonomy authorities.

Article 8: The region's budget revenues will be as follows:
1. The intrinsic revenues consisting of the following:
A. Revenues allocated to the region's municipalities and local administrations under the law.
B. Revenues from sales and services of the departments, establishments, and interests administratively and financially linked to the autonomy.
C. The decided share in the profits of the socialist sector covered under the region's budget.
D. The main and additional real estate taxes in the region.
E. Taxes on land within the region.
F. Inheritance tax on the proceeds of inheritance within the region.
G. Real estate registration duties.
H. Court fees and fines.
I. Stamp duties.
J. Car registration and ownership transfer taxes.

2. Whatever is allocated in the state's general and investment budgets to cover the deficit in the region's current and investment budget, with due consideration to the population of the region.

3. A special five-year renewal budget to ensure growth and development of the region in parallel with the rest of the Iraqi Republic.

Article 9: The region's accounts will be subject to the control of the central financial control and audit department.

Chapter II: Autonomy Institutions:

Section 1: The legislative council:

Article 10. The legislative council is the legislative body elected by the inhabitants of the region in a general secret direct ballot. Kurdistan legislative council law 56 of the year 1980 defines the structure of the council, election procedures, and operation. The council's structure, election procedures, and operation will be determined [sentence as published].

Article 11:
A. The legislative council will elect a speaker, deputy speaker, and secretary from its members.
B. The council sessions will be held in the presence of the majority of its members. Its decisions will be based on the majority of those present except where the legislative council law stipulates otherwise.

Article 12: The legislative council will exercise the following powers, within the limits of the constitution and the law:
A. Draw up its own bylaws.
B. Make the legislative decisions necessary for the development of the region in its local social, cultural, constructional, and economic aspects within the confines of the state's general policy.
C. Make legislative decisions relating to the development of the cultural characteristics and national traditions of the region's citizens.
D. Make the legislative decisions relating to local departments and interests after consultation with the central departments concerned.
E. Approve the region's development plan and approve the detailed draft plans prepared by the executive council for economic, social, development, education, health, and labor affairs in accordance with the requirements of the state's central general planning and implementation requirements, and submit them to the central authorities for consideration.
F. Approve the region's budget after it has been approved by the executive council, and refer it to the central authorities for consideration.
G. Introduce amendments to the region's budget after its approval, within the confines of the allocated sums and the purposes for which they are allocated, provided that this does not conflict with current laws.
H. Discuss and consult with executive council members on matters lying within their own field of jurisdiction.
I. Seek a vote of confidence in the executive council or in one or more of its members. Whoever loses a vote of confidence will be relieved of his duties. The withdrawal of confidence will be based on a majority decision by the legislative council members.

Section 2: The executive council:

Article 13:
A. The executive council is the executive body of the autonomy administration in the region.
B. The executive council will comprise its chairman, his deputy, and a number of members equal to the number of secretariats mentioned in article 64 of this law or exceeding it by two members.
C. The president of the republic will ask one of the legislative council members to act as chairman of and to form the executive council.
D. The designated chairman will choose the members of the executive council and his own deputy from the members of the legislative council or from those who meet membership requirements. He will then go to the legislative council for a vote of confidence. Once a vote of confidence has been won from a majority of the council members, a republican decree will be issued establishing the executive council.
E. A chairman, deputy chairman, or member of the executive council who holds a public post will be considered as having resigned from that post from the date of issue of the republican decree establishing the council.
F. When the post of deputy chairman of the executive council is vacant or when a member's seat is vacant, the council chairman will nominate someone who meets membership requirements to fill the vacant position. A republican decree will be issued appointing that nominee

after winning the confidence of the majority of the legislative council members.
G. The period of membership of the executive council will be regarded as active state service for all purposes.
H. By virtue of his post, the chairman of the executive council will be a member of the cabinet.
I. Executive council members will enjoy the status of minister and each will exercise the powers of a minister within the organs attached to his secretariat.
J. The president of the republic may relieve the executive council chairman of his post, in which case the council will be regarded as dissolved.
K. If the executive council is dissolved or if confidence is withdrawn from it, it will continue to administer current affairs until a new council is formed, provided that this is for no longer than 15 days.

Article 14:
1. The executive council chairman will be the most senior executive chairman in the region with regard to the autonomy administrations and associated departments, and decisions and orders will be issued in his name.

Second, the region's governorates will be linked to the executive council chairman.

Third, the following secretariats will be linked to the executive council:
A. Internal affairs secretariat.
B. Education secretariat.
C. Housing and reconstruction secretariat.
D. Agriculture and irrigation secretariat.
E. Culture, information, and youth secretariat.
F. Tourism secretariat.
G. Social and health affairs secretariat.
H. Economic and financial affairs and light industries secretariat.
I. Awqaf affairs secretariat.

4. The domains of the following secretariats will be determined as follows:
A. Internal affairs secretariat—councils of administrative units, police, and traffic.
B. Social and health affairs secretariat—health, labor, and social affairs.
C. Economic and financial affairs and light industries secretariat—financial departments, local trade facilities, and light industries.
D. Agriculture and irrigation secretariat—agricultural and irrigation affairs, except as regards dams and reservoirs.

5. Responsibility for the secretariats mentioned in clause (3.) of this article will be assumed by executive council members called (secretaries general). Each will have a deputy to be appointed in a special grade.

6. The secretary general will be the most senior executive official in his secretariat, and decisions and orders will be issued in his name.

7. Secretaries general will be linked to the executive council chairman.

Article 15:
1. The executive council will exercise its powers as follows:
A. To guarantee implementation of laws and regulations.
B. To adhere to the judiciary's rulings.
C. To spread justice; maintain security and order; and protect public, national, and local amenities and state funds in accordance with the provisions of the present law.
D. To issue the decisions necessary for implementing local legislative decisions.
E. To issue internal regulations for the region's secretariats and their administrations without conflicting with legislative and regulatory provisions.
F. To prepare the region's draft general plan and detailed draft economic plans.
G. To supervise local public establishments in the region.
H. To appoint employees of autonomy administrations whose appointment does not require a republic decree or the president of the republic's approval, in accordance with the service and ownership laws. They will be subject to the provisions of the laws applying to employees of the Iraqi Republic. Employees in the administrative areas inhabited by a Kurdish majority will be Kurds or from among those enjoying a good command of the Kurdish language, taking into account what is mentioned in Article 2 of this law.
I. To nominate autonomy administration employees whose appointment requires a republican decree or the Council of Ministers' approval.
J. To nominate heads of the administrative units for appointment without violating the president of the republic's powers.
K. To implement the region's budget in accordance with the laws and rules approved by the state's accounting system.
L. To prepare an annual report on the region's conditions and to refer it to the president of the republic and the legislative council.
M. To prepare forecasts of a draft budget for the region and to refer it to the legislative council

2. In exercising its powers, the executive council will seek assistance from the following:
A. The executive council office;
B. The monitoring and inspection office;
C. The statistics and planning office;
D. The legal affairs office.

Chapter III: Relationship Between Central Authority and Autonomy Administration:

Article 16:
With the exception of the powers exercised by the autnomy bodies, authority throughout the Iraqi republic will be exercised the central bodies or their representatives.

Article 17:
1. Police and traffic formations in the region will be linked to their general directorates at the Interior Ministry for the purposes of technical aspects and service

affairs, and their employees will be subject to the provisions of the laws, regulations, and instructions applied in the Iraqi republic. In the performance of their duties they will receive orders and instructions from the secretary, taking account of the governorate's law.

2. Directors of the formations mentioned in clause (1.) of this article will be appointed or transferred on orders from the interior minister on the recommendation of the secretary general for internal affairs.

3. Police and traffic personnel will be transferred within the region on orders from the secretary general for internal affairs or anyone authorized by him, taking account of the stipulations of clause (1.) of this article.

Article 18:
1. Central authority departments in the region will be under the ministries to which they belong and will carry out their work within the boundaries of their own domains, and the competent autonomy bodies will be entitled to express observations to their officials within the framework of coordination and of serving public welfare, without disrupting the course of the work, laws, regulations, and instructions. They will be entitled to submit reports on them to their respective ministries.

Article 19:
1. The president of the republic will the entitled to dissolve the legislative council in the event it is difficult for it to exercise its powers due to the resignation of half of its members, its failure to secure the legal quorum within 30 days from the date it is called to convene, its failure on more than two successive times to obtain the confidence stipulated by clause 4 of Article 13 of this law, or its failure to comply with the decisions of the control authority stipulated in Chapter IV of this law.

2. In the event of the legislative council's dissolution, the executive council will continue to exercise its powers until the election of the new legislative council within a maximum period of 90 days as of the date the republican decree dissolving it is issued.

Chapter IV: Legitimacy Control:

Article 20:
1. A body called the "legitimacy control authority" will be set up, comprising seven members, three of whon will be nominated by the speaker of the National Assembly (the Shura council), provided that two of them are jurists. The chairman of the legislative council of the autonomous region will nominate three members, provided that two of them are jurists.

2. The president of the republic will choose the chairman of the legitimacy control authority.

3. The chairman and members of the control authority will be appointed by a republican decree for four years, renewable only once. The authority's chairman or any of its members may not be relieved of his post during the membership term unless he expresses his wish to do so.

Article 21:
The control authority will consider the following:

1. The legality of the autonomy bodies' decisions.

2. The extent to which the draft law on amendment of the autonomy law conforms to the provisions of the Constitution and the essence of the autonomy law No. (—) [as published] of 1991.

3. Jurisdiction disputes between the central authority and the autonomy bodies.

Article 22:
1. The justice minister will be entitled to contest the autonomy bodies' decisions before the control authority for their violation of the Constitution, laws, or regulations. This will be done within 30 days of the date he was informed of them.

2. The chairman of the legislative council of the autonomous region will be entitled to ask the control authority to show the extent to which the draft law on amendment of the autonomy law conforms to the Constitution and the essence of the autonomy law.

3:
A. The competent minister will be entitled to request the control authority to determine the domain of any departments of the autonomy bodies as well as his own ministry's sphere of authority with regard to a particular question.
B. The executive council chairman will be entitled to request the control authority to determine the sphere of authority of any central authority department or any of the autonomy bodies' departments with regard to a particular question.

Article 23:
1. The control authority will examine a contestation submitted to it by the justice minister or the executive council chairman within 30 days of the date the contestation is submitted.
2. The control authority will examine a request submitted to it by the competent minister or the executive council chairman within 30 days of the date the request is submitted to it with regard to determining the sphere of authority.

Article 24:
1. A contestation submitted to the control authority by the justice minister against the autonomy bodies' decisions will suspend their implementation until it is decided.

2. Decisions of the autonomy bodies which the control authority decides are illegal will be regarded as invalid in whole in or in part as of the date they were issued, and all the legal effects resulting from them wial be eliminated.

3. The control authority's decision on the question of determining the sphere of authority will be final and must be implemented.

4. If the control authority decides that the draft law on amendment of the autonomy law violates the provisions of the Constitution or the essence of the autonomy law, its legislative provisions will be suspended. But if the authority discovers that a part of the draft law violates the provisions of the Constitution or the essence of the autonomy law, the authority will remove that part from the draft law. In such a case, its legislation may continue or be disregarded.

5. The control authority will inform the quarters concerned of its decisions, which will be published in the official gazette.

Chapter V: Concluding Provisions:

Article 25:
This law will not be amended by the National Assembly (and the Shura council) except by a two-thirds majority of its members.

Article 26:
The autonomy law of the region of Kurdistan No. 33 of 1974 and its amendments will be abolished, but the regulations and instructions issued under it will remain valid pending their replacement.

Article 27:
The Revolution Command Council's decisions on autonomy law No. 33 of 1974 will remain valid without conflicting with the provisions of this law.

Article 28:
This law will be implemented as of its date of publication in the official gazette.

Necessitating Reasons:
Based on the historic statement issued by the Revolution Command Council on 11 March 1970, which laid the sound foundations for tackling the Kurdish question on the basis of national unity and historic brotherhood between the Arabs and the Kurds;

And for the sake of developing and enhancing the autonomy experiment represented by law No. 33 of 1974, which continued for 17 years in line with political and economic developments, this law has been introduced.

Kurdish Leaders Cited on Baghdad Conditions

PM0307111491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 91 pp 1, 4

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Kurds Reject Baghdad's Conditions"]

[Excerpt] Shaqlawah (Iraqi Kurdistan)—Kurdish-Iraqi negotiations are back to square one following the Kurdistan Front's unanimous rejection of the commitments demanded by Baghdad for normalizing conditions in Kurdistan within the framework of an agreement on autonomy. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of the People's Party of Kurdistan and member of the Kurdish delegation, has told AL-HAYAH that the matter requires a new round of "serious negotiations that could last a further 10 days at least."

The Front's leadership has held extensive meetings in Shaqlawah. They started last Monday following a closed meeting between its joint leaders, Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, and are not expected to end before the day after tomorrow, Sunday [30 June]. These meetings were preceded by a tide of optimism and expectation that the agreement was ready. This optimism was supported by statements by Barzani in Baghdad in which he said that the agreement could be signed on the 20th of this month, while the newspaper, AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the ruling Ba'th Party, said that Saddam Husayn would announce the agreement "immediately" after the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

In his statement to AL-HAYAH 'Abd-al-Rahman pointed out that Barzani's optimism was encouraged by the government with a view to creating an embarrassing atmosphere for the allies and the United Nations. He also said that the commitments "are worded rigidly, and perhaps this is their method of negotiation: First they make you trust them, and when they think that you are sure, they surprise you by requesting such commitments."

In statements to three reporters, including one from AL-HAYAH, Barzani said on Thursday that "so far there has been no final agreement on many issues (...) we want a comprehensive agreement (...) and not to leave any gaps." He emphasized that the Kurdistan Front is united in its position and that this unity is the "principal guarantee" for any agreement. "But if any major state or the Security Council decides to guarantee the agreement, we will be pleased. And we welcome any guarantees of this kind, even helping us in rebuilding Kurdistan."

He denied that the Kurds could have been trying to procrastinate. He said: "If the matter requires further negotiations, then they should be conducted, but we will not resort to procrastination. I would not agree to that, and we should be frank and sincere."

Answering a question he said: "It does not concern us whether Saddam stays in power or not. We have a cause and historic rights, and we will deal with anyone who recognizes them. Our people need a rest, and if we secure a good agreement, it does not concern us whether Saddam is still in power in Baghdad. What is important is to arrive at an agreement now, because there is no alternative."

'Abd-al-Rahman emphasized the existence of "important points which are still suspended, including the determination of the autonomous region. We have talked about it, but we have not put in on paper. This is in addition to the question of protecting security in the region—a task that we believe the autonomy authority should be in charge of."

Mahmud 'Uthman, a member of the leaderships of the Front and the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, told AL-HAYAH that maintaining security in the autonomous region is "very important, and we must not agree to itsremaining in the hands of the security and intelligence organs, which are all controlled by Saddam's relatives."

'Aziz Muhammad, secretary general of the Iraqi Communist Party and member of the Front's leadership, believes that "there should be a distinction between normalization and alliance. We are dealing with the normalization of conditions in the Kurdistan region, whereas the conditions and commitments demanded by Baghdad are aimed at establishing an alliance between the two sides, which is another matter."

Informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that that the the positions of the parties participating in the Front's meetings were clearly specified on the second day (Wednesday), and representatives of six of the eight parties comprising the Front rejected the commitments and conditions demanded by Baghdad.

They called for additions and amendments to the draft law on autonomy and for the insistence on holding free elections for an Iraqi parliament that would draw up a permanent constitution based on democracy and political pluralism—not as Baghdad wants it, namely, that it should be issued by the Revolution Command Council as its last measure before its dissolution, after which it would be referred to a referendum, followed by elections.

These six parties are the Patriotic Party of Kurdistan (Talabani), the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, the Kurdish Socialist Party, the Iraqi Communist Party (Kurdistan branch), the Toilers Party, and the Democratic Constitutional Movement. As for the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (Barzani), it leans more toward responding to Baghdad's demands, whereas the People's Party of Kurdistan has adopted an intermediate position.

However, the second day's meeting ended with these two parties' joining the majority, and a unanimous decision was reached to reject Baghdad's conditions. The meetings are continuing in order to determine the amendments and the wording and to decide the minimum that the Front can accept. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Opinion Split Over Baghdad's Demands

PM0307092291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jun 91 pp 1, 4

[Ibrahim Nawwar report: "Kurdish Leaders' Return to Baghdad Postponed; Disagreements Over 'Commitments' Flare Up"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Kurdish delegation's return to Baghdad has been postponed until the end of next week to give more time for continuing consultations between Kurdistan Front leaders and Kurdish tribal chiefs on the draft agreement on autonomy and its appendices. Consultations are currently focused not on the draft law on autonomy but on one of its appendices which the Iraqi Government has asked to be included. It is titled "Kurdistan Front's Commitments Toward Homeland."

At the end of the recent round of negotiations, and before the delegation left for Kurdistan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn put to the Kurdish delegation to the negotiations a request that the Kurdistan Front offer "something in return" for the autonomy law and rights.

But some Kurdish sources have said of the commitments that Saddam Husayn is demanding from the Kurdistan Front in return for the autonomy law that they are of a "serious nature, and no government in Iraq has ever obtained them from the Kurds."

For example, the sources point out that the first demand includes that "in pursuance of one of the clauses of Article 31 of the Iraqi Republic's Constitution of 1970 which banned the establishment of nongovernment armed formations by individuals, groups, or parties and which limited this right to the state, all the armed formations and militias belonging to the Kurdistan Front will be disbanded and all their arms will be handed over to the central authorities within a month of the agreement's announcement."

Although there is agreement on the Kurdistan Front's part to surrender the heavy and medium weapons seized by Kurdish fighters from the Iraqi Army's camps during the March events, most Kurdish parties are opposed to the disbandment of the lightly-armed formations and armed militias, namely, the "Pesh Merga" forces. There is considerable agreement in Kurdistan Front leadership circles and among tribal leaders that the disbandment of the "Pesh Merga" forces would be tantamount to "a fatal blow to the Kurds, since it would facilitate their liquidation at a later stage."

As for the second commitment which the Iraqi president is demanding from the Front, it is "to hand over to the state the radio stations owned by the Kurdistan Front once the suspension of transmissions is announced."

The Kurdistan Front owns one radio station, whereas the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and the People's Democratic Party each own a radio station. There are disagreements on this point—ranging from total rejection to agreement, on condition that these stations be handed over formally pending the election of the autonomy authority, the appointment of the executive council, and the management of information affairs, including radio stations, by the Kurds.

The third commitment demanded by Saddam Husayn is "to cease any cooperation or contacts with states inside and outside the region. The same applies to dealings with non-Iraqi parties and their members. As for friendly parties, the method of contacting them and establishing relations with them can be determined through the frontal [jabhawi] action charter to be agreed."

There disagreement among the Kurds about this commitment. The first view says that this commitments means paralyzing the Kurdistan Front's external political alliances and the assets which it has managed to secure in past years, and recently in particular.

The second view believes the opposite; namely, that the Kurds' enjoyment of a proportion of public posts, including Foreign Ministry posts, including ambassadorial posts, would enable them to make contacts with the outside world at the official and partisan levels in their capacity as an integral part of the Iraqi state. It says that the Kurds cannot constitute "a state within the state," and an autonomy agreement means that they exercise their political activities through the Iraqi state's institutions, not outside them.

There is also disagreement among the Kurds over the fourth commitment demanded by Saddam Husayn. The fourth article of the "Kurdistan Front's Commitment" stipulates that "Iraq has suffered, and still suffers, serious threats to its national and strategic security—first and foremost, the Zionist-imperialist threat and the regime in Iran. In order for the national response to these threats to be at the required level, the Kurdistan Front will be committed to the plans and measures taken by the Iraqi state to achieve this noble national objective, whether through the military fighting method or the nationalist political struggle. It will also be committed to developing the masses' awareness with regard to love for the homeland and and readiness to defend it until martyrdom."

The view opposed to this commitment is that it places the Kurds in direct confrontation with other states of the region, thus harming Kurds living in Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

The other view is that to establish a democratic system based on party pluralism in Iraq would ensure that Iraq does not pursue an aggressive tendency toward its neighbors. Such a commitment would not result in practical behavior that would harm the Iraqi Kurds who emigrated to Turkey and Iran. This, because they should return to their homes once the autonomy agreement has been signed.

Saddam Husayn is also demanding a Kurdistan Front commitment to support the Ba'th Party and the other national parties "in order to confront the artificial religious or nationalistic political groups that threaten Iraq's strategic security because of their links with foreign forces."

The sixth and last commitment demanded by Saddam Husayn is that "the Kurdistan Front be fully committed to implementing a central national program drawn up by the Ba'th Party and the Kurdish Front and designed to spread correct national awareness and to create a spirit of discipline, commitment, and respect for the laws and regulations issued by the state and its organs."

Differences among Kurdistan Front leaders proceed from a fundamental point, namely, the limits of Kurdish independent decisionmaking within the framework of the Iraqi state. Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani believes that the autonomy agreement means that the Kurds should totally abandon the "state-within-a-state" attitude. As for Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, even though he agrees to the autonomy principles and plan, his reservations about the commitments demanded by Saddam have received a response among other Kurdish leaders, including Mahmud 'Uthman, leader of the Socialist Party of Kurdistan. But Barzani's logic still elicits a stronger response among Iraqi tribal chiefs. This logic proceeds from the fact that it the Kurdish efforts must be prevented from turning into an issue of refugees.

Opposition Groups Continue Talks in Damascus

NC3006185191 Paris AFP in English 1839 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Damascus, June 30 (AFP)—The Iraqi opposition Sunday continued its second and final day of discussions about the Iraqi- Kurdish talks on autonomy and the future status of the oil-rich city Karkuk. A coalition of 30 Kurdish and Shiite opposition groups are in Damascus to review the situation in Iraq.

Iraqi Kurdistan Front spokesman 'Abd-al-Jabbar Firman released a statement expressing "the Kurdish desire to continue working as a coalition force in the Iraqi opposition's Joint Action Committee."

The committee represents 17 opposition parties and movements that designed a joint action platform in December 1990 calling for the establishment of democracy and the dismissal of President Saddam Husayn.

The Kurdish leaders view "the installation of democracy in Iraq as the best guarantee to solve the Kurdish problem," Iraqi Communist Party member Fakhri Karim said. Mr. Karim added that certain opposition groups completely ruled out negotiating with the Iraqi government.

The Kurdistan Front in Shaqlawah announced Sunday that it has rejected the Iraqi government's propositions as "inacceptable to the Kurdish party," but said negotiations with Iraq would resume soon.

During their final meeting Sunday, the opposition groups are expected to discuss future steps of the Joint Action Committee regarding Arab and regional plans. Some parties have advocated the creation of a national council (parliament), opposition members said.

A final communique is expected to be published in Damascus Monday.

Saddam on Iraq, Palestine Situations

JN0207202091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1804 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to a delegation from al-Qadisiyah Governorate; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] No matter how we speak of the courage, status, generosity, and sacrifices of the Iraqis, we may never be able to give an accurate description. May God help us and the sincere ones to give an accurate description of the Iraqi people and their traits so history will mention them correctly. [passage omitted]

You are aware that the nation that unleashed the sword in the face of injustice is capable of reconstruction. We are the people of the sword and the reconstruction. [applause] This is because we are in the right. [words indistinct]

A law was established in Iraq 4,000 years ago. Parts of this law, including parts related to human rights, are not found in some countries to this day. Our nation is the teacher of all the laws on earth. This law is the law of God, the Almighty. The holy Koran deals with human rights. [words indistinct] Yet, look at the double standards of the frustrated ones who were talking of justice and international legitimacy. Look at their double standards. They talked about the Palestine question. We said let us solve the Palestinian problem in accordance with this international legitimacy that you are talking about. They said the Palestinian problem will be dealt with in turn after (?the withdrawal from Kuwait).

Look what is happening now. Look how the Palestine problem has been ignored. Look how they are trying to strip the principled ones of their arms to keep Israel's hand free so that it will [word indistinct] according to its whims and subject to its ambitions. Look how they neglected the rights of your brothers, the uprooted Palestinian Arabs—men, women, and children. Where is justice and international legitimacy? These are shear ambitions and nothing else.

The last page of the plot [words indistinct]. From the first statement [words indistinct] represented by trained groups that had special training and were sent from across the border to stab us in the back. But this is part of the plan of the aggressors and not a separate thing. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Speaks to Al-Qadisiyah Delegation

JN0207170591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said that no matter how much we talk about the Iraqis and their strength, status, generosity, and sacrifices, we cannot give a correct and accurate description of them. This came during the president's meeting with a gathering from the sons of al-Qadisiyah Governorate which was made up of tribal chieftains and dignitaries and members of the people's councils in the governorate's cities, villages, and countryside. The leader president said that the nation which unleashed the sword in the face of injustice is capable of reconstruction. Addressing the people of Iraq, his excellency said: The sons of your nation note for you the status you deserve. As for the abnormal ones, they exist anytime and anywhere.

The leader president added that in his relationship with his people, the man in the highest position of authority must represent his people in a sincere and genuine manner. He said a man can either be a leader or a salesman. He said: For the Arabs, leadership cannot be combined with fear or wealth. His excellency said: We take pride in these characteristics of our history. We know that there is one approach for leadership; namely, being a representation of the best of people, not those who have average or lesser amounts of good qualities.

The huge gathering received the leader president with applause, chanting, songs, speeches, and poems expressing the people's love for their victorious leader and reflecting Iraqi sacrifices throughout their history and their determination to continue the glorious struggle, especially in the field of reconstruction under the banner of God is great, which is fluttering high in the hand of the great leader.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Mizaban Khadr Hadi, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary of the Central Euphrates Party Organization Office; 'Abdallah Salih al- Juburi, Al-Qadisiyah governor; and Comrade Muhammad 'Isa 'Awdah, secretary of the party's branch in the governorate.

Red Cross Reports Planned Expulsion of Arabs

JN0307124191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1211 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Al-Basrah, 3 Jul (INA)—A responsible source at the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has said that the Kuwaiti authorities intend to deport more than 20,000 Arabs of different nationalities.

An INA correspondent in the al-Basrah Governorate quoted the source as saying that as of tomorrow, Thursday [4 July], the Kuwaiti authorities will deport all [as received] Arab nationals residing in Kuwait via the Safwan area in al-Basrah Governorate.

The ICRC official added that the ICRC, in cooperation with the Iraqi authorities, is currently working to secure the humanitarian needs of the deportees in order to facilitate travel to their home countries. This measure comes as part of the arbitrary measures the Kuwaiti authorities are perpetrating against the Iraqi and Arab nationals residing in Kuwait.

Further Reports on UN Nuclear Inspection Team

No Progress Reported in Talks

NC0207151691 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, July 2 (AFP)—A U.N. Security Council delegation Tuesday held three and a half hours of talks with Iraqi officials which one of its members described as "hopeless".

On the second day of discussions the team met with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Defense Minister Kamil Hasan, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn al-Khudayyir, and the head of Iraq's atomic energy agency, Sa'id Musawi.

The United Nations team, charged with enforcing Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions calling for an elimination of Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons facilities, arrived in Iraq on Sunday.

Tuesday's talks were attended by Rolph Ekeus, head of a U.N. commission on eliminating Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons capability, Secretary General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix, and disarmament expert Yasushi Akashi.

One of the participants, who asked to remain anonymous, told reporters that the tenor of Tuesday's conversations was "hopeless", in contrast with a more optimistic view that the team expressed on Monday evening.

At the end of a two-hour meeting Monday with Mr. 'Aziz, Mr. Blix said: "We have no progress to announce." Mr. Ekeus added vague comments that "the problem was approached" and "we have a larger vision of the question at hand."

The U.N. visit follows reports by experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Iraq that the government was attempting to conceal material which could be used to construct nuclear arms. The team had been denied access to a nuclear site on June 23 and June 25.

It is still unclear whether the U.N. delegation will meet with Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi as expected. The meeting was initially scheduled to take place Monday.

The delegation announced its intent to leave Iraq Wednesday, regardless of the outcome of the meetings.

'Categorical Pledges' on Inspection

JN0207174791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—Iraq has made categorical pledges from the highest levels to enable the international parties to inspect all the Iraqi agencies, equipment, and sites.

Commenting on the meetings that have been held between Iraqi officials and the special UN committee, a Foreign Ministry source today said that Iraq has also pledged to facilitate the committee's task, to immediately meet its demands, and to guarantee its members' safety.

The committee met today with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn, and Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization Chairman Dr. Hammam 'Abd-al-Khaliq.

The committee also visited one of the sites it had requested to visit today for inspection purposes.

Hammadi Stresses Cooperation

JN0207182891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1811 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi today met with the UN delegation led by Rolph Ekeus, executive head of the special committee sent to Iraq by the UN Security Council.

The prime minister informed the delegation of Iraq's readiness to cooperate with UN representatives to accomplish the tasks assigned to them in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, whose implementation Iraq has declared its commitment to.

Mr. Rolph Ekeus expressed the committee's satisfaction with the cooperation displayed by Iraqi officials to facilitate the committee's mission. He said his talks with the Iraqis impressed him with the officials' seriousness about providing all facilities to guarantee the success of the committee's mission.

Yasushi Akashi, UN under secretary general for disarmament affairs, attended the meeting.

UN Envoy Submits Memo on U.S. Air Violations

JN0307052191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] American warplanes have again violated Iraqi airspace on 1-2 July 1991 for reconnaissance and harassment purposes.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said in a memorandum he addressed to the UN secretary general yesterday that the U.S. warplanes carried out 12 sorties in six two-plane formations at a speed of 600-700 km per hour at low and medium altitudes.

He added that the aggressive warplanes flew over Irbil and Mosul.

Opposition Group Suspends Talks With Committee

NC3006155591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Free Iraqi Council has decided to suspend the dialogue with the joint action committee for the time being. The council sent a letter to this effect to the committee members who were meeting in Damascus. This meeting ended today without producing any results.

Iraqi opposition sources say that the Damascus meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Kurdistan Front, faced a problem from the start. Representatives of the joint action committee in London had demanded the expulsion of the Free Iraqi Council and the Iraqi National Detente Group from the joint action committee.

An informed source said that the meeting was supposed to have been devoted to discussing the outcome of Kurdish contacts with the tyrant [Saddam Husayn] and the effect this has had on the unity of Iraqi opposition. This enraged the Free Iraqi Council and the National Detente Group and prompted them to suspend the dialogue with the joint action committee in Damascus.

Disagreement With U.S. Over Settlement Expounded

Sharon: No Concessions

TA0207172491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Report from Samaria by Hayim Hecht]

[Text] Minister Sharon has not yet consented to speak to journalists, but he addressed the crowd at Mevo Dotan from the podium. Naturally, he is well aware of the fact that scores of journalists from all over the world were present, eager to hear his reaction to President Bush's remarks yesterday.

Here is a summary of Minister Sharon's statements: We are settling here in Mevo Dotan by virtue of our right over Eretz Yisra'el. What we are doing we do because we have every right to do it, a right we do not have to prove to anyone. We are duty bound to protect our lives, and anyone who stands on the hills of Mevo Dotan and looks at the coastal plain needs no further explanation: The strategic situation is obvious and self-evident.

Jewish settlement, said Sharon, is not an obstacle to peace. Rather, it is an obstacle to war. They tell us, said Sharon, hinting at the White House: Hand over territories for peace. We have given territory many times. What did we get in return? Rivers of blood. There is no connection between territory and peace.

Let us hear a short excerpt of his remarks:

[Begin Sharon recording] Now we are being asked to make yet another concession. Do not build, they tell us! Concessions, however, lead to additional concessions. That is why we will not be able to accept this demand. We will continue to settle, we will continue to build. [applause] [end recording]

One U.S. correspondent asked Sharon: Perhaps, because you already decided to go ahead and build, you could have forgone the celebrations and the festivities. After all, tomorrow—after President Bush's remarks—the pictures in the United States would be juxtaposed: On the one side Bush saying that the settlements are an obstacle to peace, and on the other Ari'el Sharon laying a cornerstone in Samaria. The construction and housing minister's reply was: What did you expect? Should we have dampened the children's gaiety just because of Bush's remarks? We respect him very much, but here we must do what we must do. That is all in Minister Sharon's remarks at Mevo Dotan.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 2 July adds that "Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said that the continued settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is not meant as provocation aimed at the U.S. President, but merely constitutes the continuation of the Israeli governments' settlement plan."]

Arens: U.S. Differences Not New

TA0207152191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] It is nothing new that there are differences of opinion between Israel and the U.S. Administration, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated this evening in response to U.S. President Bush's call to stop settlement activities. He made these remarks during a visit to Ari'el, where he attended a ceremony for the opening of a new clinic. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel does not shrug off the U.S. position concerning the settlements. I am certain that President Bush does not shrug off our position, just as we do not shrug off his position, he said. The defense minister noted that the discussions on the issue would continue, and that Israel would try to convince the Americans of the need for Jewish settlement in the territories.

[Arens] It is not a novelty that there are differences of opinion between the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration on the question of settlement in Judaea and Samaria. This did not start yesterday, and I suppose we will have to go on living with these differences.

[Segal] Arens added that if President George Bush were to visit Ari'el he would definitely be convinced.

The defense minister addressed himself to recent developments in Lebanon, saying he hoped the presence of the Lebanese Army in south Lebanon would not jeopardize the security zone. No predictions can be made about Lebanon, Arens said, a year or even a week in advance.

[Arens] Although we have heard the Lebanese Government's statements that it wants to disarm the terrorist organizations, we have not yet detected any signs to this effect. On the contrary, almost every day there are attempts to infiltrate Israel from south Lebanon. [end recording]

Arens Doubts U.S. Aid To Be Withheld

TA0307045991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens is convinced Iraq still has the capability to fire missiles, even after its humiliating loss in the Gulf war. He said, however, he does not expect Iraq to make use of that capability.

Speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv, Arens also said Israel is closely monitoring developments in Lebanon and will do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of Israeli citizens.

On the issue of relations with the United States, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked the defense minister whether it was true that there had been an acceleration in settlement activity in the territories during the period of attempts to bring about peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Arens] No, I think that factually, I find that's not correct at all. I think at the present time there are

probably about 100,000 Israeli settlers in Judaea and Samaria, in the towns and villages in that part of the country. If you were to check and find out just how many were added to the total number during the last year, I think you would find that it is a very small fraction.

[Ben-'Ami] Why then, do you think, President Bush, Secretary of State Baker, and other administration officials are making such an issue out of the settlement activities of Israel?

[Arens] Well, there is a difference of opinion between the United States and Israel on the subject, a difference of opinion that has existed for quite some time. This administration, maybe, is a little more forceful in voicing their opinion on the subject.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you sense at all that perhaps it is leading to some sort of confrontation between Israel and the American Administration over the question of settlement?

[Arens] I wouldn't call it a confrontation, and I think that most people in the United States realize that the subject under discussion—namely, Judaea and Samaria and the Israeli presence in that area, is a matter of life and death to Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the argument that achieving peace is also an issue of the utmost importance, perhaps being threatened because of settlement activity? This, at least, is the claim of President Bush and other American officials.

[Arens] Peace is of the utmost importance, first and foremost to Israel. We have great respect and gratitude for the efforts that the United States is making in helping to promote the peace process, but I am sure it is understood in the United States as well that the greatest victim of the absence of peace in the area has been Israel, and the greatest beneficiary of the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the area will be Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] You don't feel that it will lead to a major rift in U.S.-Israel relations—the question, of course, of U.S. guarantees for housing loans for immigrants being one of the issues on the agenda now?

[Arens] I find it really very hard to believe that the U.S. Government would decide that they will punish Russian Jewry and not provide the help that they would want to provide to help them settle in Israel because they are dissatisfied with Israel's policy on settlements. [end recording]

Pazner: No Promise Made To Stop

TA0207173691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Interview with Avi Pazner, prime minister's media adviser, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Pazner's office on 2 July—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Pazner] There are differences of opinion between us and the United States on the question of settlements. Unfortunately, these differences did not start today or yesterday. They have been going on for a long time and, I suppose, will continue in the future. I think President Bush expressed the U.S.'s traditional position on the issue, but we have our own position.

[Ganor] To the best of your knowledge, did Israel promise the United States to stop settlements?

[Pazner] No, there is no such promise. Two commitments were made to the United States: 1) not to spend U.S. aid funds beyond the so-called Green Line; 2) not to settle Soviet immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We meticulously abide by these two commitments. Beyond that, no promise has been made on the issue.

[Ganor] Is it not surprising that President Bush aimed his remarks only at Israel?

[Pazner] When he spoke about the difficulties in the negotiations on the peace process, he specifically noted that the Arab side, too, is not exempt, as he phrased it, of piling up obstacles. He clearly aimed his remarks at both sides, not just at Israel.

[Ganor] Are you thus dismissing the possibility that we are on a collision course with the United States?

[Pazner] We are not on a collision course with the United States. Differences of opinion admittedly exist here and there, particularly on the question of settlement, but this should be seen in the general context of our relations, which are good and strong. Our relations should not be judged by one single issue, however important; one single issue should not overshadow everything else. All in all, our relations with the United States are good and we hope they will remain so.

Ne'eman Views U.S. Interests

TA0207153591 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Interview with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of science and technology and of energy and infrastructure, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Mr. Ne'eman, what is your response to President Bush's remark on the settlements?

[Ne'eman] I think that there is hardly a question of whether the issue of the settlements is a U.S. or Israeli interest. Clearly Israel has a lot more to say on the matter than the United States. On Jerusalem, too, the United States believes that it should not be the capital of Israel and indeed its embassy is in Tel Aviv. There are other similar issues. It so happens that today the United States is in a position to twist our arm to attain the move it desires, evidently for its own reasons.

Why, actually, is the United States interested in this? Because the solution it envisions for the problem of Eretz

Yisra'el is apparently one in which Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza would return to Arab hands. That makes the settlements redundant. Our view of the matter is different.

[Shilon] You portrayed the United States as somewhat of an extortionist. Perhaps, though, the United States believes it can bring to the negotiating table countries like Syria or Jordan, and not necessarily in exchange for the return of all the territories, possibly not even of parts thereof, so that at this critical moment the United States is simply asking us to kindly refrain from establishing new settlements. The United States seems to imply that it is all a matter of timing.

[Ne'eman] We are currently not in the process of establishing new settlements. I have served as chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, which had at one time decided on the establishment of 82 settlements. Subsequent governments have not decided to set up even a single new settlement. All we are doing is following the course of nature by expanding the existing settlements.

Incidentally, at the time the Arabs maintained that we would exploit aliyah to alter the political scene in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza by settling new immigrants there. That may have been a good idea, but we did not do so. Instead, we were happy with letting the new immigrants go wherever they wanted and disperse evenly throughout the country. In that way, one percent of them also reached Judaea and Samaria. What President Bush probably wants is to obtain something beyond that. Perhaps the Israeli left wing keeps telling him that we are constructing new things and the like in those areas. The truth, however, is that there are no new settlements, there is only the expansion of existing settlements. As chairman of Tehiya, by the way, I regret this very much, but I can understand that right now, and given the pressure to which we have been subjected, we will not take new and blatant measures to strengthen our hold of Judaea and Samaria, but will simply let the Jewish settlement pursue its natural course and grow.

[Shilon] Sir, would you be ready to forgo the U.S. guarantees for immigrant absorption to pursue what you call the beefing up of settlements, which the Americans view as new settlements?

[Ne'eman] I believe that if we buckle under to extortion, there would be no end to it. I believe that where a vital Israeli interest is concerned, we cannot accept dictates. If the United States currently wants us not to build—and I do not really know what it means by that because we are really not building new settlements—it could mean every individual house, but then for every Jewish house built in Judaea and Samaria today there are six Arab houses. This, however, does not interest anyone. Nor is anyone interested in Arab houses that pop up in the area of old Israel—if we accept these dictates, there will be no end to this. Tomorrow they may tell us to move our capital to Tel Aviv, however temporarily. If you think this is bizarre, then let me tell you that 10 years ago it might have seemed strange for others to dictate to us not to build even a single building [word indistinct].

[Shilon] Minister Yuval Ne'eman, thank you very much for coming to our studio.

Magen on U.S. Aid, Golan, Population Increase

TA0207140291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 91 p A5

[Report by Tzvi Zerahya]

[Excerpts] "If anyone should try to use the promised U.S. Administration guarantees, which are meant for humanitarian purposes and for immigrant absorption, to dictate a policy unacceptable to the sovereign government here, he will be making a serious mistake." The above remarks were made yesterday by Economics and Planning Minister David Magen in a meeting with economic affairs correspondents in Jerusalem.

Magen added that the Golan forms an integral part of the Galilee and that the government is currently working on a draft law, which it will submit to the Knesset, on the establishment of a Galilee and Golan Development Authority, and a Negev Development Authority. [passage omitted]

A "general plan for the state economy" for 1991 to 1995, devised at the Economics and Planning Ministry, was presented at the meeting. According to the plan, Israel's population is expected to grow by approximately 30 percent—or by 1.3 million, most of them new immigrants—during that period.

The Economics and Planning Ministry predicts that in view of the prospective population growth an annual economic growth rate of 5.2 percent will be necessary in the next few years. That growth depends on people's willingness to sacrifice an improvement in their current standard of living in favor of investments whose yields will be felt later in a rise in the standard of living sometime in the future.

The Economics and Planning Ministry believes that the next few years will be characterized by accelerated development in most of the economic sectors and that this will be felt chiefly in fields related to aliyah, such as construction, commerce and services, industry (except diamonds), transportation, and communications. Public services will also grow relatively quickly, whereas the agricultural and diamond sectors will lag behind slightly. This development will be manifested in an average annual growth rate of approximately eight percent in the gross national product, and of about 10 percent in the business product. Imports are expected to grow by an average annual rate of nine percent through 1995.

Additionally, the Economics and Planning Ministry estimates that private consumption in the next five years will increase by 6.1 percent per annum, compared to a five-percent increase in 1990. Per capita average annual

private consumption will grow by 0.9 percent, versus 1.8 percent last year. Local public consumption will stand at 3.3 percent, compared with 1.9 percent in 1990, and investments in permanent assets will increase by 22 percent compared with 17.1 percent in 1990.

U.S. Policy Called Denial of Israeli Rights

TA0307142391 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Jul 91 p A18

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The War of Settlements"]

[Text] There appears to be no rational explanation for the "war of settlements" that U.S. President George Bush has wholeheartedly declared on Israel. No previous U.S. Administration has ever fought the settlements with as much obsessive fury as the Bush administration. Why?

Beyond President Bush's motivations, which are psychological in nature (a well-known U.S. cleric once told Shamir that Bush favors the PLO and has reservations about the Israelis), this war underscores a transparent intention: to try to hit Israel with a weapon Bush apparently believes can get Congress to support him and his policies.

The fact is that several U.S. Jewish leaders have already been convinced of the "justness of his demands" and consider the moving of a few mobile homes into Judaea and Samaria a provocation. Even in Israel, the opposition, and especially the Alignment—which is responsible for establishing the settlements' infrastructure—is waging a campaign against them. This situation, of course, permits Bush to cultivate the thesis that the settlements are the greatest obstacle to peace, even though some of the most prominent attorneys in the United States claim that Israel has a much greater right to the West Bank than Jordan.

Shamir declared that when negotiations are launched the settlements will also be open for discussion, but that is not enough for Bush. The U.S. President demands that the settlements be stopped now. This week he even claimed that Israel had promised to stop them and then had broken its commitment. When was this commitment given? These statements have no basis in fact, and only our respect for the President and our desire to avoid an open confrontation prevents us from using even blunter terms to describe his statements.

"Settlement" is nothing but a code word that is meant to decide the results of negotiations even before they start. Whoever defines the settlements as Bush and Baker do, not only rejects the establishment of new settlements or the expansion of existing ones, but also rejects Israel's right to Judaea and Samaria (in the viewpoint of the Bush administration, settling in East Jerusalem is also "settlement"), because the administration believes that the "territories" must be left for the "permanent solution," for the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

The United States prefers this vague term, which cannot in any way be associated with a Palestinian state. The EC is less cautious. It has expressed its opposition to the settlements and expressed its support for the implementation of the Palestinians' "self-determination." Bush's new assault on Israel is the result of his frustation and confusion. He already knows Damascus' position, even though the Syrians have not yet answered his letter. Why blame al-Asad, however, "the new buddy on the block," if one can blame the "settlements"?

Likud Faults Shamir for Not Freezing Settlement

TA0307085991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Jul 91 pp 1, 13

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Senior Likud figures, who were close to the political talks with the United States, contend that in April 1989, during his talks with the U.S. President, Prime Minister Shamir agreed to Bush's request to freeze settlement activities for the duration of negotiations. According to them, Shamir said: "It will be okay." President Bush understood this to signify that Shamir was expressing consent to his proposal, and it was for that reason that he reiterated several times—both in talks with and letters to Shamir—that he had received an Israeli promise to freeze settlement.

Yesterday these senior figures criticized Shamir, saying that by his refusal to make a gesture for the sake of peace, he is liable to bring about an open rift with the United States and to jeopardize the absorption of immigrants. [passage omitted]

The senior Likud figures explained that "even Menahem Begin agreed, at the outset of the settlement drive, to freeze settlement for three months, while Shamir refuses to do so despite the fact that the territories are teeming with settlements and the freeze will not damage the settlement project." They noted that the freeze can certainly be made contingent on the progress of peace negotiations. This would improve relations with the Americans.

The senior Likud figures said yesterday that Likud ministers and Knesset members are afraid to speak out. As a result, there is no democratic criticism of the prime minister, while any criticism of the policy vis-a-vis the United States and fears of a rift are expressed only in private conversations. According to them, the rift with the United States is liable to harm aliyah and the absorption of immigrants.

The prevailing assessment in Jerusalem is that, despite everything, the Americans will not link the request for loan guarantees to the settlement issue; they will blame domestic economic problems instead. It is believed that eventually Congress will approve Israel's guarantee request with a small majority, for which Israel will be forced to pay a high political price. [passage omitted]

Poll Measures Opinions on Settlements, U.S. Aid

TA0207143391 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Jul 91 p A6

[Excerpts] The Teleseqer Research Institute conducted, at MA'ARIV's request, a poll to study the public's views on two current controversial issues. The following question was asked, with a breakdown of the responses:

1. If the United States makes conditional the granting of guarantees for immigrant absorption loans with a stop in the settlement drive, do you think the Israeli Government should:

	percentage of the sample
stop the settlements in order to receive U.S. funding	44.9 percent
continue settlement and fund immigrant absorption by imposing additional taxes	34.5 percent
None of the above/look for other means	6.2 percent
No position	14.4 percent [passage omitted]

The survey was conducted in nationwide telephone interviews among a representative sample of 500 interviewees, both men and women, above the age of 18.

Lahd on Holding Jazzin, Security Zone Development

TA0207160391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Jul 91 p 9

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], believes the day when the issue of giving up the Jazzin area, located 8 km north of the security strip, comes up is still far away. Lebanese Army troops and Palestinian terrorists have been positioned opposite his forces for months now. He told us: "I already have enough men and equipment there. There is no need for us to beef up our presence, and we have not raised the issue of the evacuation of Jazzin so far."

Military sources in the north have emphasized that over the past few weeks, and more so in the last few days, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA have increased their activity in the security strip in general, and in the Jazzin area in particular, in a bid to drive the message home to the local residents, the terrorists deployed north of the strip, and the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon that the IDF and the SLA are determined to hang on to their present outposts.

"The terrorists have been attacking civilian settlements in the Jazzin area these past 10 days. We are trying not to engage in combat with the Lebanese Army. Neither side wants to get involved in a confrontation. Clearly all the sides are currently interested in maintaining a low profile in an effort to see what the next few days will bring. The IDF and the SLA both have no intention of harming the Lebanese Army, the civilians residing north of the security strip, or UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon]. If, however, the terrorists use them as a shield to attack us, we will respond in kind as we had in the past and we will deal them a painful blow. Naturally, we will do that while taking every precaution to make sure that no civilians or Lebanese Army soldiers are hurt." [passage omitted]

Hundreds of notables from all over the security strip attended yesterday's festive inauguration of a seven-km road linking al-Khiyam with al-Mari. The quality of the road stands up to Israeli standards, although the construction work cost only about $200,000—one-fourth or one-fifth of the cost of building a similar road in Israel—thanks to the cheap labor, and even more so due to the close supervision of the IDF's liaison unit in southern Lebanon.

Colonel Shlomo, the civil administration commander in the security strip, told us that this year Israel will be investing $3.5 million which, in Lebanese terms—and especially in southern Lebanese terms—is a lot of money. Last year, for example, the Lebanese Government offered to invest $2.5 million in developing the infrastructure in the south, but in fact $1.5 million disappeared somewhere between Beirut and southern Lebanon, so that only the remaining $1 million was invested. Israel, on the other hand, inaugurated a road and a community center on one day, yesterday. It improves the sanitation and health, education, road, and infrastructure conditions in the security strip almost every day. The two hospitals in Marj 'Uyun and Bint Jubayl have reached a level comparable to Israeli standards. [passage omitted]

Baraq Outlines Policy on Lebanese Deployment

TA0207114491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel will adhere to its principles in Lebanon regarding the new deployment of the Lebanese Army. The following are the principles Baraq detailed: freedom of action in the skies, naval freedom of action along the coastline, and the containment of the Syrians at their present positions in Lebanon. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that there was no consensus among the committee members on whether Israel would benefit from the new deployment.

Retaliation in Southern Lebanon Not Ruled Out

TA0207155891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Colonel R., assistant coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Goni Mardor and Gabi Zohar—live]

[Text] [Mardor] How long will Israel remain an observer in view of the recent developments in Lebanon?

[R.] Israel is following events in Lebanon, checking whether and how they affect its security interests and, as it has done in the past, is taking the necessary measures to safeguard its security with the specific purpose of defending our northern settlements.

[Zohar] What development could transform Israel from an observer into an actively involved party?

[R.] Israel is following developments in Lebanon and will react accordingly to any development it perceives as hindering security along its northern border.

[Zohar] What sort of development would that be?

[R.] We respond to terrorist attacks by attacking terrorist bases. This is just one example, and I would not want to elaborate.

[Mardor] Regarding the response you have just mentioned, would it not be somewhat difficult for Israel to retaliate, seeing as the Lebanese Army is so close to the areas currently controlled by the terrorists?

[R.] It will not be difficult in any way. We have retaliated, and we will continue to retaliate against terror bases located within the Lebanese Army's area of deployment. It is our legitimate right to respond to any terrorist attack against us.

[Mardor] Even at the risk of striking the Lebanese Army?

[R.] The terror organizations, not the Lebanese Army, are our enemy.

[Zohar] We know that the Lebanese Army today operates under the inspiration of Syria and its army. Is Syria's influence actually creeping toward our border with Lebanon?

[R.] The Lebanese Army is currently performing a mission on behalf of the central Lebanese Government and prime minister in a bid to enforce its rule, in Sidon at the moment and elsewhere in south Lebanon before. It is clear to us that this regime is inspired and sponsored by Syria, and that the Syrians have a say in the Lebanese Army's moves. In the field, however, the operations are conducted by the Lebanese Army and not by the Syrian Army.

[Mardor] Judging by the ongoing fighting, do you think the Palestinians have a big arsenal?

[R.] The Palestinians have a big arsenal. Experience shows that this arsenal is directed at us no less than it is directed at Lebanese of all types, including the central government.

[Zohar] Are we surprised by the military might displayed by the Palestinians in the fighting?

[R.] We are not surprised by their military might. I do not think we are witnessing anything particularly new in this respect.

UN Envoy's Visit, Peace Process Linkage Rejected

TA0207134891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem has notified UN envoy Edouard Brunner that from Israel's viewpoint, his approaching tour of the region is unrelated to the peace process. This was stated yesterday by senior political sources in Jerusalem.

A message conveyed last weekend to Brunner, who is also the Swiss ambassador to Washington, stated that Israel would accept Brunner as the UN secretary general's envoy and as the Swiss ambassador in Washington, but it would not be prepared to acknowledge any connection between his tour and the peace process. An additional message to this effect was conveyed to him via the United States. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that Brunner's tour would probably take place in June, although a final date has not been set yet. The visit was originally scheduled to begin next Sunday [7 July], but Brunner's announcement of his intention to visit Israel only after a tour of the Arab countries resulted in renewed uncertainty.

The sources added that in his talks here, Brunner will be informed of Israel's political stands and of its opposition to granting a peace conference role to the United Nations.

Senior Jerusalem officials said last night that they do not know to what extent the timing of Brunner's visit was coordinated between Brunner and Washington, but some of them believed that one of the administration's goals is to use Brunner to signal to Israel that if the U.S. process runs aground, the initiative will pass on to some other body, such as the United Nations.

According to the officials, Brunner's tour should not be accorded great political significance, even more so in view of the recently obtained information according to which he does not intend to initiate any concrete peace-related moves, and his visit is designed merely to establish the UN presence in the political process.

Brunner is a senior Swiss diplomat and a former Swiss Foreign Ministry secretary general, an office parallel to that of a deputy minister.

Last night it was learned from Jerusalem that Israel has no reservations about the selection of Brunner for the UN envoy, contrary to the Israeli position in 1971, when Israel had reservations about the appointment of Sweden's Jarring.

Envoy Requests UN Action in Kashmir Kidnapping

TA0207114091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jul 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay, special correspondent in Kashmir, and New York-based correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Excerpt] The prospects of obtaining the release of Ya'ir Yitzhaqi, the Israeli being held by the Kashmir underground organization, dimmed in the past 24 hours, in view of the kidnappers' insistence on handing him over to a UN representative who would arrive in Srinagar for that purpose.

Last night, Israel officially appealed to the United Nations to intervene in the rescue of Yitzhaqi. Yoram Aridor, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, met yesterday with UN Assistant Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime, who is now the topmost figure in the UN building, following Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's departure for Germany.

Senior sources at the United Nations report that in the meeting, Aridor raised the kidnappers' demand to meet with a UN envoy in return for the release of Yitzhaqi. Acting on behalf of the Israeli Government, Aridor formally requested urgent UN intervention in the rescue of the Israeli hostage. He stressed that the matter involved a humanitarian cause.

Jean-Claude Aime promised to relay Israel's request to the secretary general and to obtain a decision as soon as possible. Late last night, the secretary general was indeed briefed on the Israeli request. Senior UN sources said last night that the United Nations will do everything to assist in obtaining the release of the Israeli, although operational methods will be weighed very cautiously. This approach stems from the desire to prevent India and Pakistan from interpreting the dispatch of an envoy as a precedent for intervention in Kashmir's political problems. [passage omitted]

UN Said Not To Help Yitzhaqi

TA0307103791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] In Kashmir, a spokesman for the UN observer force in the area says his organization is not willing to receive the abducted Israeli, Ya'ir Yitzhaqi. A leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front that kidnapped Yitzhaqi last week had offered to hand him over to the United Nations. A REUTERS reporter says that apparently instructions have been received from UN headquarters in New York not to proceed. Earlier, it was reported that UN officials were worried about their own safety.

In response, the senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official in New Delhi, Moshe Yegar, says he is looking into the apparent UN decision not to help in Yitzhaqi's release. Yegar, who is the deputy director general for Asian and African affairs, says it contradicts other reports that the United Nations would be ready to do so.

Yegar also told Qol Yisra'el that the three wounded Israelis would leave Srinagar tomorrow morning, fly to New Delhi, and arrive in Israel on Friday.

Rabin To Run for Prime Minister on Labor Ticket

TA0207143091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin will present his candidacy for prime minister in the next Knesset elections, running as the representative of the Labor Party. He announced this at a meeting of activists at the conclusion of the Labor Party membership poll.

Rabin believes that the party's candidate for prime minister must be elected in primaries—namely, in the internal elections involving all the party members. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Rabin believes the success of the membership poll guarantees the inclusion of all the party members in the vote for its candidate for the prime ministership.

Cabinet To Set Up 3 Industrial Zones in Gaza

TA0207140591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to set up three industrial zones in the Gaza Strip as part of the plan to solve the industrial infrastructure problems and to increase employment opportunities in the region. The above was reported by Economics and Planning Minister David Magen to Gaza Strip Industrialist Association members. This was reported by our correspondent Nisim Qeynan.

Bedouin IDF Enlistment Reportedly Triples

TA0307090991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jul 91 p 12

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Excerpt] In a phenomenon seen by some as a reaction against the intifadah, the number of Bedouin volunteers to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has tripled over the past year.

Bedouin and Palestinian Arabs have been in conflict over cultural, religious, and territorial issues for centuries. The tension between the two groups reached a peak just before the intifadah broke out, when Bedouin driving in the Gaza Strip were subject to repeated firebombings and other attacks.

The rise in volunteers is also seen as the result of an intensive campaign by Defense Minister Moshe Arens and other officials to move Bedouin youth to opt for military service. [passage omitted]

Data on Palestinians Killed by Army, Arabs

TA0207143991

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 2 July in a page 12 report by Jon Immanuel, reports: "A gunman hiding in an orchard fired several bursts from a submachine gun at dawn yesterday toward the Netzarim Junction military checkpoint about

50 meters away, slightly wounding an Israeli soldier," after which "a curfew was briefly imposed on the nearby al-Burayj refugee camp.

"The shooting followed several attacks on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the southern part of the Strip over the past 10 days involving firebombs, grenades, homemade bombs, and guns." Writing on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 July, Eytan Rabin reports that several hours before the shooting incident, "a fragmentation grenade was hurled at an IDF patrol in Bani Suhaylah. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused." The report adds that "another soldier was slightly injured when he came under a barrage of stones in the city of Gaza." "According to Palestinian sources, two Arab residents were wounded yesterday by army gunfire in Jabalyah."

HA'ARETZ further writes that "Gaza Strip attorneys yesterday announced a three-day strike of solidarity with the Nafha prison security detainees who are staging a hunger strike over imprisonment conditions in the IDF's detention facilities."

The report states that "yesterday, the Nabulus military court sentenced 'Adnan Ibrahim 'Amir to life imprisonment, after he had been convicted of the murder of a Shuwaykah resident in August 1990. In Tel Aviv, the District Court meted out a three-year sentence on a 15-year-old from al-Tayyibah, who had been convicted of painting PLO flags and spraying nationalistic slogans on the walls of his village mosque, scattering broken glass shards, and burning tires on a nearby road."

A report by Ruth Heyman on the same page of HA'ARETZ adds: "A bomb exploded yesterday in a trash container in the Beersheba central bus station. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The police believe the event was nationalistically motivated."

The JERUSALEM POST report goes on to write that "in Dayr al-Balah, two unmasked men wearing green shirts entered the travel agency of 'Abd-al-Wahab Ghattas, 46, opposite the Civil Administration building and when one pulled a gun, Ghattas jumped over the table and wrestled with him. Three shots were fired during the struggle, wounding Ghattas in the shoulder and grazing his forehead." "It was the second time in three days that gunmen attacked an alleged informer close to a military position. A butcher shop owner was shot dead in Ramallah in his shop under a military outpost on Saturday.

"The number of Palestinians killed as alleged informers or Israeli agents declined sharply in the West Bank last month, but rose slightly in the Gaza Strip following an order by the Unified National Leadership [UNL] to stop the killings.

"Altogether 11 Palestinians died [in June], eight of them in Gaza and three in the West Bank, according to figures collected by the Associated Press."

"Three Palestinians were killed by IDF gunfire last month, according to Betzelem, the Israeli center for human rights.

"The number of Palestinians killed [since December 1987] by the IDF has now reached 773, according to Betzelem, while 405 had been killed by other Palestinians by the end of June, according to the Associated Press.

"Palestinian observers in Gaza said that the apparent failure of Palestinians in Gaza to heed the UNL warning was based on two factors: There are now more collaborators in Gaza than in the West Bank; there is less visible leadership in the Strip, where both young vigilantes and leaders are more underground."

King Addresses Islamic Civilization Conference

JN0207144491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1108 GMT 2 Jul 91

["Full recording" of King Husayn's opening speech at the eighth conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research (Al al-Bayt Foundation) at the Royal Cultural Center on 2 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Honorable scholars, members of the Al al-Bayt Foundation, and esteemed audience: Greetings to you and may God's mercy and blessings be upon you. God bless you and your foundation. I congratulate you for the big steps you have made and for your accomplishments. I also welcome you all in our country, Jordan, which is happy to host every conference of your foundation. Your meeting today is a source of happiness because from this large Islamic gathering we receive joy, optimism, and confidence. We also see it as evidence that the clouds gathering over our homeland, no matter how great they are, will soon blow away and our atmosphere will again be pure.

God granted this Islamic spirit amity and mercy so that it can wipe away its wounds and pains, which will soon be healed. He also granted it the bases of thought and doctrine and the interest in achieving quick rapprochement, understanding, and reconciliation as if it had faced no dispute.

Honorable scholars, ladies and gentlemen: Throughout its long history, our nation faced numerous disasters and ordeals, the latest of which was the so-called Gulf crisis that resulted in many material, human, and environmental losses; that caused psychological, intellectual, and physical wounds and pain; that divided the nation; that revealed the ills that were decaying it; that deprived it of its dignity before others; and that removed what were believed to be our strong suits. What shall we do? Will we remain silent, continue this state of affairs, and be cursed by God and the generations, or will we carry out our duty to correct the situation and the path? How can we do that? Is it enough to repair and paint the outer surface or need we exert every effort to remove debris and cooperate to restore the building after testing the foundation itself and making sure it is sound?

Honorable gentlemen, the two generations, extending from 40 to 80 years, to which the members of this esteemed audience belong, have witnessed the disasters of this nation and confronted one disaster after another and remained firm. But at the end of this race, it suffered from exhaustion and disintegration and needed to renew its tissues and build its cells. How will it do that and where will it begin?

Past Arab and Islamic differences used to limit themselves to the surface without going beyond that to essentials, because scholars, intellectuals, and the educated refused to be involved in them, except those who clarified a position and patched up the rift.

The most prominent result of the recent test is that a number of leading national thinkers, guides, and scholars joined in the fray, along with those involved in these differences, and wittingly or unwittingly worked to expand and deepen these differences, causing them to penetrate the surface to deeper levels. They caused a divergence of views among these thinkers and scholars. They did not follow the same course, nor were they gathered around common principles. Whenever they gathered, their opposite opinions and their divergent positions caused a deepening of the rift, and produced more rifts that spread through the nation's body. Hence, estrangement and alienation increased among the scholars and intellectuals themselves and among the citizens in general. This resulted in what you have seen in the various news media in terms of talks, judgments, statements, analyses, and reports by some of our scholars and thinkers. Sorrow filled our hearts. A good number of you, however, preferred to distance yourselves from this sedition. You spoke very little, either to give guidelines for good speech or remain silent so as not to exacerbate the rift or fan the fire.

Now, it is time for the nation's scholars to make the voice of the mind tower above the voice of the throat. It is time for the nation's scholars to begin a new phase of rationalizing the mind, building thought, establishing science, and straightening paths in all positions and institutions. It is time the nation emerged from the phase of generalization and ambiguity, and entered the phase of distinctness and clarity of objectives and means—a stage of laying down practical organizational plans and programs with specific timetables, capable of developing and keeping pace with the changes and developments while safeguarding the principles and constants. It is time our scholars, writers, preachers, lecturers, and speakers—indeed all of us—returned to our speech, carefully examining our words, appreciating their insinuations, liberating their meaning, and placing them on the right track. Then, our perception of events and things and actions would be clear after a period of vagueness because of the ambiguity of words, the confusion in their meanings, and their wrong usage.

Dear friends, Muslims have experienced times when scholars were guiding lights. Many of them adopted positions in which they only feared God. They always sought the right and the just. The scholar is a model. He can only be so through the trust of others in him, and their belief in his words that must agree with his ideas and deeds. Grievously odious is it in the sight of God that ye say that which ye do not. [Koranic verse] It is easy to say things, raise one's voice, and harangue people as long as the words have nothing to do with the speaker's conduct. The scholar's influence is measured by how far the people emulate him in thought and deed, and not in anything else.

If people are not impressed by thought or deed then this impression is transient and it will not take long before it turns into emptiness inside oneself, in thought, and in life. Islam has an ideology and Muslims have action, and their Islam will not be true unless their action is in harmony with their ideology.

Esteemed scholars, you know that the scholar of whom we are most proud in our history, which is full of prominent scholars, is the one who seeks the truth and right. Al-Kindi [ninth century Arab philosopher] described his methods and doctrine by saying: "We must not be ashamed to follow the truth wherever it comes from. If it comes from the races that are remote from us and the nations that differ from us, then there is nothing better for he who seeks the truth than the truth itself. Everyone is honored by the truth." This scholar is the one who does not seek to win or to be distinguished, because this would distract him from the truth and may lead him to wrangling, bitter condemnations, and falsehoods.

How noble what Imam al-Shafi'i [old Islamic Imam] said about himself when he said: "I have never liked to see anyone make a mistake. I like to give all the knowledge I have to everyone without claiming that this knowledge is mine," and when he spoke about his books: "I had wished that the people would have learned from these books without attributing them to me." Al-Shafi'i also said that a scholar is perfect when he does not like to show off, particularly in occasions where hasty statements or opinions are voiced that seek to instigate scholars against each other and to hunt for differences.

Thus those scholars would become as those who were fragmented after the evidence has come to them, and differed coercively among themselves after they received knowledge, and God the Almighty has prohibited us from saying: Be not like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputation after receiving clear signs. [Koranic verse] The division among scholars is a reason for causing perplexity among Muslims. The one Islam emerges as numerous and divided, particularly when these scholars resort to quoting the holy Koran and the pure Prophet's Sunna in their differences in a bid to win, and using them as instruments for ideological quarrels that give evidence on something and on its opposite through interpreting a single Koranic verse or a prophet's saying by different scholars and sometime by the same scholar in different situations.

Honorable scholars, we are now at another stage in which it is futile to speak again about issues that were broadening the gap between Muslims. This stage is not one of theological differences or intellectual judgments that come closer or farther from each other, or that are becoming unified or different from each other. We should not return to our negotiations and justifications, which we have begun, to become like the people of Byzantium. The danger is looming over them, while they are busy arguing until they were wiped out before they know it.

Let us restrict our effort to grasping what has happened through objective and abstract research, which does not restore differences but opens horizons of calm thinking in which we all participate so as to reach our reality and the nature of our relations and the essence of our order and entity so that we can rebuild our life on the basis of truth, right, justice, and the interests of the nation, taking advantage of science, understanding the spirit of this age, participating in the making of human civilization, and warning the entire nation against what is being directed and hatched against it. Our main concern should be to confront the danger threatening all of us.

Honorable scholars, I again welcome and thank you. I pray that God will lead us to His content. O God open our chests for rightness and through rightness, and lead us on your straight path. Thy forgiveness our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

France's Dumas Begins Two-Day Visit 29 Jun

JN2906201691 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Amman tonight on a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials. Mr. Dumas was received by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the French ambassador in Amman.

Confers With Al-Nusur, Al-Masri

JN3006133991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] We begin with the talks held in Amman this morning between French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur. Khalil al-Qaryuti has the details:

[Begin al-Qaryuti recording] The talks between Tahir al-Masri and Mr. Roland Dumas at the office of the prime minister took up Middle East peace efforts, Israel's obstructionist line, and its lack of sincerity given its continued intransigence, settlement-building, and absorption of Jewish immigrants in these settlements. The sides also noted Israel's refusal to comply with UN resolutions and its opposition to a UN participation in the proposed peace conference. Attended by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, the talks also covered the French position on Middle East peace, and explored ways of developing bilateral ties.

Earlier in the day, an official round of Jordanian-French talks was held at the Foreign Ministry. The sides reviewed Middle East issues in depth, as well as the efforts to promote a fair and enduring peace in the region. They also discussed ways of further reinforcing bilateral ties and advancing the peace process. They examined the potential for Europe, and especially France, to play a part in helping the cause of stability and security in the Middle East. The

sides stressed the need for consistent compliance with international legitimacy, and reiterated their support for the land-for-peace formula as the basis for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Jordanian side noted with satisfaction France's understanding posture in relation to regional issues, international law and legitimacy, and UN resolutions on the Arab-Isrseli dispute and the Palestinian question. The French side voiced its appreciation of Jordan's key role in advancing the peace efforts, and noted that Jordan is making the most of the available opportunites to work out regional problems.

With respect to bilateral relations, the sides said they were happy with the progress of ties between the two friendly countries, stressing the need to further consolidate them in various areas. [end recording]

Received by King

JN3006152891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation at al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. Mr. Dumas conveyed to his majesty the greetings of French President Francois Mitterrand and an invitation to visit France. During the meeting, bilateral relations and efforts to resolve the region's problems were discussed. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir, Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, and the French ambassador in Amman.

Calls Israeli Settlements 'Mistake'

JN3006164891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] We begin our reports with the news conference held by Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, at the conclusion of his two-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur. This report by our correspondent Jawad al-'Umari covers the main points raised at the conference:

Mr. Dumas said his meeting with his majesty the king and discussions with the prime minister and the foreign minister dealt with the international and regional situations and bilateral relations, with emphasis on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's mission in the region. He said his country supports Mr. Baker's initiative, but he wondered about the chances of its success, saying the confusion overshadowing the peace process is intensifying anxiety about its success and serving the interests of those who do not want to achieve peace.

Asked by our radio whether France will propose ideas to resolve the region's crisis if Baker's plan fails, Mr. Dumas said: If the U.S. plan fails, we will have to find an alternative. This does not mean that we have new ideas, but France has had its own policy for some time.

President Mitterrand has explained the main points in this policy, and they are as follows: I mean the international, not the regional conference, even if it has an international nature and attended by some countries. [sentence as heard] The second point is that the conference cannot be held without careful preparation. A meeting of the heads of the Security Council permanent member states should be held to give political impetus to this conference. The third point in the French policy is that the conference be convened on the basis of the principles and resolutions of the United Nations and the concepts of Israel's right to security and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The fourth idea, which will be proposed only if all these successive steps fail to achieve solution, is a response by the international community urging the concerned parties and making them understand that peace is of concern not only to one or two countries, but to the entire world.

Mr. Dumas criticized Israel's settlement policy and the building of new settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, describing it as a gross political mistake. He praised relations between Jordan and France and Jordan's efforts to bring about peace in the region. He pointed out that France will continue to provide assistance to Jordan.

Describes Talks as 'Constructive'

JN3006170191 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Amman, 30 Jun (PETRA)—French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas has described his talks with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur as comprehensive, candid, and constructive. [passage omitted]

At a news conference he held prior to leaving Amman this afternoon, Mr. Dumas said that while there is a Jordanian-French agreement to support the mission of the U.S. secretary of state and make every effort to render the peace process a success, the two sides note that a state of confusion and anxiety exists as a result of the failure to achieve any tangible progress toward peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Mr. Dumas said that during the talks, Jordan broached the subject of the naval blockade being imposed on the high seas in the area, which is causing great economic damage to the region's countries, including Jordan.

He said France is concerned about this subject and will discuss it with the allies with a view to finding alternatives to this blockade.

Mr. Dumas was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the French ambassador in Amman.

Denies France Aiding Israeli Settlements

JN0107082991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jul 91 p 15

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas affirmed in a news conference he held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel yesterday that his country believes it is necessary to solve the Middle East crisis, and that international legitimacy must not view current affairs with two standards. It should tackle all issues according to a single standard to provide security and peace.

Answering a question by AL-DUSTUR, he denied that his country had given Israel a $500 million loan to contribute toward settlement-building there. He said: A French company concerned with constructing buildings is the one that provided the loan, and the French Government merely guaranteed this loan which will be used to build houses in the Arab territories occupied before 1948. [passage omitted]

Paper Lauds Dumas Statements, Urges French Role

JN0107085691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jul 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Will France Renew Its Initiative?"]

[Text] After meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking officials, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas made important political statements which confirm the distinctive character of France's foreign policy regarding all aspects of the prevailing situation in the Middle East region.

Perhaps of greatest interest to us in the statements made by the French minister, who concluded his visit to Jordan yesterday, are his clear affirmations that his country will not remain idle if the current stalemate in the U.S.-led peace process in the region continues.

This is because France shows a wide-ranging traditional understanding of the problems in the region. It knows well the extent of the dangers surrounding this opportunity to realize a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. This is what urges it to propose calling for the five permanent members of the Security Council to hold talks on peace in the region.

We all remember that such a call was launched by the French president himself a few months ago. It fell on the deaf ears of the big power capitals, especially after the United States led extensive efforts to launch the peace process in the Middle East after the Gulf war ended four months ago.

We believe, therefore, that the possibility of renewing the French call for convening such special talks among the five permanent members of the Security Council is an appropriate way out for the stumbling U.S. peace efforts, apart from the fact that this could restore to the Security Council its full role as a peace-maker in the Middle East.

Proceeding from this, we welcome this old French call which Mr. Dumas brought to mind yesterday after he himself realized the extent of the Israeli belligerence and was informed of the details of the extensive current settlement and colonialist plans in the occupied territories, especially in view of the huge influx of tens of thousands of new Jewish immigrants.

While we welcome this distinctive French evaluation of all the various aspects of the situation in the region, we call on French diplomacy to keep up this positive view, and then work on calling the Security Council to convene and present an initiative which would give the Security Council its role back and give peace in the region a chance—a chance which the Americans seem to be losing slowly.

Dumas Said Pessimistic About Peace Process

PM0207093091 Paris LE MONDE in French 2 Jul 91 p 7

[Francoise Chipaux report: "Mr. Dumas Is Pessimistic About Chances of Peace in Near East"]

[Text] Amman—The current peace process in the Near East was at the center of the talks which the French foreign minister had in Amman on Sunday, 30 June. During a brief visit, Mr. Dumas, who was received by King Husayn and Tahir al-Masri, the new prime minister, was able to observe that Jordan shared France's "doubts about the chances of success" for the mission undertaken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Dumas, who is clearly not very optimistic about the situation, described the current uncertainty as "harmful and worrying," adding that it "plays into the hands of those who do not want peace and who are playing for time." Although he stressed that the American mission had not yet failed and that it was necessary to wait before envisaging other means, he reaffirmed, in reply to a question, the proposal made in March by Mr. Mitterrand to convene the Security Council at the level of heads of state. "We supported the U.S. initiative," he said, "on the basis of the idea that the United States is in the best position to exert useful influence over Israel—part of the solution—but, if that fails, we will have to move on to something else."

For France that should mean returning to an international conference which would be more appropriate "than a regional conference limited to a few countries" and which "should be prepared by the heads of state of the five permanent Security Council members to give it political impetus." This conference would meet on the basis of UN decisions, in other words Resolutions 242 and 338 which, Mr. Dumas added—extrapolating somewhat from the documents—"are based on Israel's right to security and on self-determination for the Palestinian people and their free choice of a country and a homeland." "Instead of small gradual approaches," he also

said, "it is necessary to prompt a reaction from the international community to show that the Middle East problem ultimately affects world peace." However, would such an approach not be immediately blocked by a U.S. veto? "That is a risk," Mr. Dumas replied, but "the law is the law and the situation in this respect is no longer the same as it was before the Gulf war."

Shared Opinion

Mr. Dumas' pessimism is largely shared by the Jordanian leaders. Mr. al-Masri had told the French foreign minister the previous day that "the peace process is in deadlock, there is no new element in the U.S. efforts since Mr. Baker's last visit." "Israel," he added, "does not want peace, but just wants to play for time and is exploiting this situation by stepping up its settlement policy." The Jordanian leaders who have long been worried about the massive influx of Soviet Jews into the occupied territories, think that Israeli colonization is one of the main obstacles to peace and that, despite protestations on this subject, the United States and the whole international community are not exerting all the pressure they could on Israel.

Mr. Dumas, who had come to Amman to find out about the state of negotiations on the formation of a possible joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, was told that although the hypothesis is viewed with favor, at least on the Jordanian side, the question was premature in the absence of certainties about convening a peace conference. Although they are not saying so clearly, the Jordanian leaders think that the U.S. initiative is virtually dead and, in these circumstances, they can only welcome the determination shown by the French foreign minister not to simply accept any failure.

In the bilateral sphere, France, which has maintained good relations with Jordan despite the Gulf war, has been asked to show clemency in the case of the dispute over Amman's cancellation of its April 1988 order for 12 Mirage-2000 planes and its option on six more. The cancellation of that contract could cost Jordan several hundred million dollars and it already has very serious financial and economic problems.

Brotherhood Spokesman Queried on Peace Process

JN0107060691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jul 91 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood Movement said Sunday that it would not allow any potential political differences with the cabinet of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri over the peace process to lead to a confrontation that might disrupt the democratic process.

"No political differences (with the cabinet) will weaken our support for the democratic process which we are ready to defend with our lives," said Brotherhood spokesman Ahmad Qutash al-Azayidah in an interview with the Jordan Times.

"We have no desire (in seeing) our differences (over the peace process) evolve into a confrontation with the government," he asserted.

But Mr. al-Azayidah implicitly warned that any attempts to tamper with democracy to prevent the Islamists from ascendency might provoke a violent reaction by some Islamists similar to what happened in Algeria. "We are sure that the decision-makers here are very wise and will not allow such a thing to happen," he said.

Mr. al-Azayidah implied that attemps to curtail the Movement's influence by containing democracy in the country might result in the emergency of extremist groups which advocate violence.

Earlier on Sunday the Arabic dailies had run a brief clarification by the Brotherhood, signed by Mr. al-Azayidah, in response to Mr. al-Masri's press interview published Saturday which implied that the Movement had declined to join the Cabinet when they were not offered the education portfolio.

The Brotherhood statement stressed that its decision not to join the cabient was out of concern that Mr. al-Masri's appointment would pave the way for negotiations with Israel.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. al-Azayidah conceded that Mr. al-Masri offered the movement five ministries which did not include the education portfolio, but denied that it was the factor that influenced the movement's decision to stay out of the new government.

Mr. al-Azayidah who conducted negotiations with Mr. al-Masri on behalf of the Brotherhood, said that his group had already taken a decision that the movement would not accept portfolios in the cabinet in light of indications that the cabinet might join the proposed peace conference, which entailed talks with Israel.

"It is true that Mr. al-Masri did not offer us the education portoflio, but that was not the reason why we declined participation in the cabinet," he explained.

"If indeed that was the reason, how come we did not insist for the education portfolio?" he asked.

Despite the movement's denial, some political analysts and observers still believe that the movement's refusal to join the government was in reaction to what was perceived as Mr. al-Masri's move to curb their influence in government by not offering them the Ministry of Education and forming a coalition with liberal and left-of-centre groups.

Historically speaking the Brotherhood, or the Ikhwan as they are called in Arabic, had maintained influence over the Ministry of Education even before they were offered the portfolio by former Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Influence in the ministry and schools was a major means for the Ikhwan to further institutionalise Islamic Sharia philosophy and practices which the government views as a prerequisite for the establishment of an Islamic state.

Therefore, the loss of the portfolio was seen by many as an important factor that prompted the Brotherhood's negative response to Mr. al-Masri's offer, especially that Jordan's declared commitment to peaceful solution with Israel had not prevented the Ikhwan from joining the cabinet of Badran.

Mr. al-Azayidah, whose official title is spokesman of the movement's parliamentary group, dismissed such suggestions by stressing that the Brotherhood was ready to pull out from Mr. Badran's cabinet if there were signs of impending peace talks with Israel.

"It is true that Jordan has a long standing commitment to a peaceful solution. But there were no indications that the former government was about to engage in peace talks ... it is different with this cabinet since other observers agree that peace talks are in the offing," Mr. al-Azayidah argued.

The deputy, however, avoided any direct or indirect ciriticism of the new cabinet saying that "the movement hoped that its assessment about possible peace negotiations would prove to be wrong."

Mr. al-Azayidah explained that the movement's opposition to peace talks not only emanates from a principled rejection of negotiations with the Zionist state but also reflects conviction that any peace conference will only enhance the dominance of Israel.

The Ikhwan's emphasis, in public statements, on their opposition to the new cabinet's possible participation in a peace conference, has raised concern that it will result in a confrontation with the government and disruption of the democratisation process.

But Mr. al-Azayidah ruled out such a scenario saying that the movement will not allow its differences with the government to undermine the path towards democracy.

"Our differences in assessing the political situation will not lead to a confrontation... after all we are convinced that peace talks will not lead to anything; so why should we clash (with anybody) over a mirage?" he asked.

The fact that the Ikhwan, the biggest organised movement in the country and in Parliament (23 members), are now operating outside the cabinet has also given way to speculation and fears here that there might be a threat to political pluralism in the country. Such concern was strengthened by the recent events in Algiers, where differences led to bloody clashes between the government and Islamic groups. It was further fueled by reported criticism at some mosques across Jordan of the national charter and the new cabinet and by historically strained ties between the Ikhwan and the leftist groups who supported and joined the new cabinet.

Mr. al-Azayidah refused to draw comparisons between Jordan and Algeria, pointing out that Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) of Mr. Abasi Madani was not an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood. He also dismissed assumptions that the FIS's attitude as an indication of the Islamist trend's rejection of pluralism.

Mr. al-Azayidah, however, blamed the Algerian government for the violent reaction of the front," The Algerian authorities have tried to contain and limit democracy in order to prevent the Islamists from winning a majority in the people's assembly," he charged, asserting out that the Algerian government has tried to achieve its goals by a system that would lead to under-representation of districts with strong Islamist constitutencies.

"The same (a violent reaction by some Islamic groups might happen anywhere) if democracy is tampered with to prevent the ascendency of Islamists," he warned.

"The Islamists are ready to accept democracy as long as the other groups accept it," he said. expressing the opinion that some groups will not like to allow the Islamists in the Arab World to reach power through the democratic process.

He refused to name these forces but said that he was confident that the Jordanian decision-makers would not allow something like this to happen.

The highly respected Ikhwan deputy strongly resented resumptions [as published] and accusations by other groups that his movement's support for the National charter was a tactic and that if ever the Brotherhood held power it would do away with political pluralism.

"Our support for the National Charter was on official decision made by the leadership," he stressed. "It is true that the real test for the movement's position towards pluralism would come if and when we form a government, but reversing our position will only undermine our credibility," Mr. al-Azaydah said.

In his speech following the ratification of the National Charter, His Majesty King Husayn vowed that he would not allow any party to monopolise political life in the country. Later in his letter of appointment to Mr. al-Masri he implicitly criticised the use of mosques to attack and slander writers and others who disagree with the strict Islamic codes of behaviour.

"We cannot be held responsible for every word that is being written or said in defence of Islam or even ourselves," Mr. al-Azayidah said. He agreed, however, that the Jordanian community is deeply influenced by religious rhetoric which he said should be "rationalised." Nevertheless, he implied that the responsibility should be shared by the critics of the Islamist movement who might provoke such scathing reactions by the public.

Mr. al-Azayidah also dismissed claims that the moves towards segregation by the former Brotherhood ministers of education and social development had signalled

the beginning of the implementation of the movement's programme to impose strict Islamic behaviour codes on the Jordanian society.

"The policies of both ministers did not reflect a formal decision by the Brotherhood; the two ministers acted on their own initiative," he said.

But while he said that he himself from a strictly personal viewpoint did not view the minister of social development's move to segregate sexes at his ministry as relevant, he defended the education minister's decision to ban fathers from attending their daughters' sport activities.

"Some young men had used these occasions to stare at the girls, especially that sometimes the (sports uniforms) exposed the girls' bodies" he argued.

The former education minister's move had then stirred a big controversy and was rejected by many parents.

"The (Jordanian) press had exaggerated the issue (as one touching upon) political freedoms" Mr. al-Azayidah charged.

Furthermore, he denied that the two ministers' policies indicated that the Brotherhood would force women to wear scarves or the hijab if they were able to win office in Jordan.

"We shall not force women to do anything. The only limitations we shall seek are these within the limits of acceptable behaviour in the world. But we shall not impose the hijab on Jordanian women," he said.

Army Deployed in '97 Percent' of Positions

NC0207120291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Engineer Michel al-Murr stated a short while ago that the Lebanese Army has completed deployment over 97 percent of the positions east of Sidon. He said only the village of al-Miyah wa Miyah is left. He said that there is no intention to enter the Palestinian camps.

Prime Minister Denies 'Massacre' of Palestinians

NC0207123891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has stressed that the Army has completed its deployment in east Sidon and that only 4 km remain. He described the ongoing battles as skirmishes.

Prime Minister Karami said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] In fact, from the beginning we were optimistic that the Army would deploy in all positions defined in the plan approved by the cabinet. We were keen that this deployment should take place peacefully. We have formed a committee to hold talks with all parties concerned to ensure that this deployment will be peaceful. We have stressed to all that this decision is final and irreversible, because it serves the national interest of all.

Now that the Army has almost completed its deployment, it is important for me to say that the brother Palestinians are the guests of this country and that the Lebanese state is responsible for them. We will ensure all their social rights. We are prepared at any time to hold all the necessary talks to secure their rights and dignity.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, [PLO representative in Lebanon] Zayd Wahbah says that what is happening in the south is a massacre against the Palestinians. What is your reply?

[Karami] No one is contemplating a massacre. We are saying they are our beloved brothers and guests. We are ready at any time to give them all help and protection and to safeguard their lives and dignity. [end recording]

In answer to a question on the status of Jazzin, Prime Minister Karami said that the issue of the south is an integral part. The Army's step today is a first one toward the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. Our goal is to liberate all the land, beginning with Jazzin and ending with the border strip.

Army Consolidates Positions

NC0207161291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] According to the latest reports from the south, Army units are advancing on al-Miyah wa Miyah village. Meanwhile, the Army commando regiment's units are purging the areas under the Army's control, particularly in 'Ayn al-Dulb and the surrounding hills, where the Army seized an ammunition depot.

An Army officer has announced that the deployment plan has been completed and that Army units are consolidating their positions on the approaches to al-Miyah wa Miyah.

AFP said a short time ago that the Lebanese Army has launched a large scale attack on PLO positions near Sidon, tightening the seige on the city's camps. The agency added that the three-pronged attack has been very violent, and all types of weapons are being used, particularly tank guns and field artillery.

Army forces took control of al-Qurayyah township this morning after a fierce battle in which Palestinian units used intensive rocket fire against the advancing Army units.

The fighting abated noticeably this afternoon. Intermittent exchanges of fire between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinians are still being heard on the Sayniq-Maghdushah front and al-Ashrafiyah hill. The heavy fighting in 'Ayn al-Dulb and al-Qurayyah has caused extensive property damage. Army trucks have been seen evacuating large numbers of Palestinian prisoners of war, and the Sayniq-al-Ghaziyah road, which earlier came under Palestinian sniper fire, has been reopened.

The Army has completed its deployment in the Palestinian stronghold along the 'Ayn-al-Dulb-al-Qurayyah-Jinsnaya front to east of Sidon and is beseiging the Palestinians in a 4-square km area that includes the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps, Darb al-Sim, Zighdraya, the Sirub hill, and al-Ashrafiyah. The Army is surrounding the Palestinians from three directions: from the north, where the Army has deployed on the cardboard factory hill along the entire length of the Sidon-al-Hilaliyah front as far as 'Abra al-Jadidah, Majdalyun, al-Salihiyah, and Kafr Falus; from the south, where the Army has taken up positions in Maghdushah and Jisr Sayniq; and from the east, where the Army has seized al-Qurayyah, Jinsnaya, and 'Ayn al-Dulb.

AFP reported at noon today that battles were taking place 1 km from the entrance to the Sidon camps. It cited security sources as saying that clashes were occuring close to 'Ayn al-Hulwah and on the road leading to the al-Miyah wa Miyah camp. The Army was then advancing toward the camps from the eastern and southern approaches to Sidon.

At 1445 Defense Minister Michel al-Murr announced that only al-Miyah wa Miyah village remained outside Army control. He said that the Army took a number of Palestinians prisoner in al-Qurayyah and confiscated their weapons and ammunition. Al-Murr said that the Army was beging attacked with artillery and anti-aircraft guns and was responding with appropriate weapons. He also noted that more than 200 Palestinian prisoners had been captured by the Army. He announced that the

Palestinians must withdraw inside the camps and will be prevented by the Army from deploying outside them. He ruled out negotiations between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinians.

Al-Murr has addressed the officers and troops, asking them to continue the process of implementing the decisions that will save the country. He said: Today you are waging the real battle of Lebanon's unification. Your rifle, which is implementing the legitimate government's decisions, is putting a decisive end to the war and is determining the features of a bright dawn of stable peace, firm unity, security, and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Government Rejects Palestinian Cease-Fire Request

NC0207164491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] As part of the ongoing efforts to normalize the situation, Minister Nazih al-Bizri has telephoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has also made some calls, telephoning Minister Muhsin Dallul; Colonel Qasim Siblini, commander of the southern Army command; and Colonel Ziyad, head of the Syrian observers team in the south.

It has been learned that the Palestinians, through Minister al-Bizri's mediation, asked for a cease-fire at 1430 today. The Lebanese authorities, however, rejected the request and asserted that the Army deployment would be completed as previously decided.

Army Seizes 'Last' Palestinian Position

NC0207165391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The Lebanese Army took full control of the last Palestinian military position outside the camps at 1700 today, when it captured al-Ashrafiyah hill, a strategic position overlooking the Palestinian camps and Sidon and seized an advanced electronics operations room there. The Army also entered al-Miyah wa Miyah village and is now at the entrance of the al-Miyah wa Miyah camp.

A short while ago, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr received phone calls from President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and discussed the latest developments with them.

PLO's Abu-Sharif Blames Government for Attacks

NC0207174191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has held the Lebanese Government responsible for what he termed the military assault on the Palestinian positions in Sidon. He expressed the PLO's hope that political negotiations would begin so that reconciliation and coordination between the Lebanese and Palestinians could be achieved.

In another development, Walid Khalid, spokesman for the Fatah Revolutionary Council, has called for rising above the suffering and said that the clashes had been unprovoked. After meeting with Acting Mufti Shaykh Muhammad Qabbani, Khalid said he welcomed the deployment in the south because it would enable the Army to play its role in the liberation.

Al-Murr Says Army Has Completed Deployment

NC0207180691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 July 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Michel al-Murr by correspondent Sa'd Ilyas on 2 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Murr] The military operations carried out in response to the attacks against the deployment ended at 1700 today after the Army completed its deployment in all designated areas. The al-Ashrafiyah hill, which overlooks al-Miyah wa Miyah, had been the only remaining position and was entered by the Army and cleared of gunmen at exactly 1700 today. The Army's deployment in all designated areas was thus completed this evening, though there are a few remaining pockets. The deployment in Sidon, its eastern suburbs, and all other designated areas was completed this evening.

[Ilyas] You have said that you have no intention of entering the camps. It is being reported that the Palestinians are setting up barricades in the al-Miyah wa Miyah camp. Are the Palestinians attempting to draw the Lebanese Army into a war of attrition?

[Al-Murr] The Lebanese Army is a regular army and cannot be drawn into a war of attrition. It is not a militia fighting another militia. If they are building barricades inside the camp, it is their internal affair, but nobody can erect barricades outside the camp. For the time being, the Army will not enter the camps, because it never intended to attack or enter the camps. In the first place, the Army did not attack the Palestinians, but they attacked the Army and it responded. Whatever the Palestinians are doing inside the camp...[changes thought] for the time being the cabinet has not made a decision to enter the camp. If they open fire on the Army, however, it will know how to react but will not get involved in a war of attrition. It will respond so forcefully that it will be impossible to open fire on it.

[Ilyas] Do you have information on Palestinian attempts to deploy in the al-Rashidiyah and al-Buss camps?

[Al-Murr] No, we have no information that there have been movements or deployment in these two camps. In any case, the Army has deployed there, and wherever the Army has deployed, the gunmen cannot deploy, including the areas outside or near the camps. We have no information that there have been any movements.

[Ilyas] What do you have to say about the criticism we heard from Minister Walid Junblatt today?

[Al-Murr] I was hoping that our friend Minister Junblatt would not criticize the Army at this important national juncture when we should be showing respect for the Army's martyrs. The Army lost two martyrs, and there was no justification for their death except the stubbornness of non-Lebanese gunmen. I would have liked criticism to be directed at the non-Lebanese gunmen and not at the Army at this difficult stage.

[Ilyas] One last question: What do you expect from the cabinet meeting tomorrow if the attacks continue?

[Al-Murr] If the attacks continue on the Army? First of all, the Army is responding to the attacks. Do not think that they are attacking the Army and the Army is sitting idly by as if it were on a picnic. The Army is preventing any attacks against it and is responding in the appropriate manner. The cabinet supports the Army, and the cabinet's decision justifies its activities. This political support will continue during and after tomorrow's meeting.

Casualty Toll Given; Cabinet Rules Out Dialogue

NC0307054491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] The Lebanese Army has completed its deployment in all designated areas in east Sidon after grinding battles with those who tried to obstruct its advance with all types of weapons. The Palestinians retreated to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps. The Army, backed by Arab and international support, is determined to advance toward the border strip in implementation of Resolution 425.

Army officers First Lieutenant George 'Abbud and First Lt. Raymond Naddaf were martyred and 17 troops were wounded. Twenty- five Palestinians were killed and 55 others wounded. Well over 200 Palestinians were taken prisoner.

The Army's swift deployment confirms its ability to impose the state's authority on all the Lebanese soil and to advance toward regaining every inch of the homeland territory. Government sources said that the Palestinian confrontation with the Army has led to the indefinite postponement of the dialogue with the Palestinians. It should be recalled that the dialogue was on the cabinet's agenda during its scheduled meeting today.

The government sources maintained that the Palestinian quarters, specifically the PLO, were wrong in their dealing with the Army deployment in the south. The sources said: The spilling of blood could have been spared because we made it clear to them that the Army would deploy by the time set for the process. We also told them that we were prepared to hold a dialogue with them and to meet all their demands concerning their social and civilian rights. However, the PLO leadership insisted on their wrong stand. This left us with two options: either to ask the Army to retreat, and that was out of the question, or to make it advance, and that is what happened.

The government sources are not too enthusiastic about the issue of dialogue and exchanges with the Palestinians in light of yesterday's events. The sources said that the Army has carried out its deployment plan as designated and has not entered the camps. However, the weapons must be collected from the camps, as has been the case with the Lebanese militias' weapons, the sources added.

It has been reported that the government sources asked the official organs to treat prisoners and civilians well and to take into account that there is no link between the gunmen and their practices and the civilians.

Palestinians Resume Attacks on Army Positions

NC0307054691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0539 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

We learned from military sources a short while ago that the Palestinian gunmen have resumed their attacks on the Army positions in the south. A number of 106-mm shells were fired at the Army positions from the Palestinian camps this morning.

Further on Clashes in South

NC0307055791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0548 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Security sources in Sidon said a short while ago that the Palestinians and the Lebanese Army are trading rocket and machine-gun fire in areas facing 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The sources added that the clashes continued along the combat lines of Sayniq, al-Ghaziyah, and Maghdushah until this morning.

Meanwhile, the Army military police have erected roadblocks all along the coastal line and instituted motorized patrols.

Al-Murr Rejects 'Contact Lines' With Camps

NC0307064191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Commenting on the skirmishes between the Army and Palestinian positions in the camps, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said: We will not accept that contact lines be created between the Army and the Palestinian camps.

Military sources said that the Army started to reinforce its positions in Sidon and its suburbs this morning. The Army will continue to implement the cabinet decision, prevent any show of force, collect weapons, and detain all violators in its areas of deployment, as has been the case in Greater Beirut, al-Shuf, and Kasrawan, the sources added.

The military sources went on to say that the Army will treat all Lebanese and residents equally and will guarantee the protection of everyone residing in its areas of deployment. The Army asks everyone to show positive

response and not to obstruct its advance so it can pursue its task in Jazzin and the so-called border strip.

The Army command wishes to reiterate that any Army deployment in new areas will negate all the pretexts used by Israel to violate our land, air space, and sea.

The military sources maintained that the Army has carried out the political authority decision by regaining the homeland's sovereignty, and it is determined to wrest its rights from the Israeli occupying forces. The Army will not allow any violation on its territory, the sources added.

PLO's Abu-Sharif Says No Plans for Evacuation

NC0307071191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has denied reports about a Palestinian plan to evacuate the Palestinian fighters from Lebanon to Algeria. He said these reports are completely baseless.

Fighting Continues; Army Reinforces Positions

NC0307072991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in Sidon have reported that intermittent clashes are currently raging between Army positions and Palestinian fighters along the combat lines of al- 'Arab circle, al-Amirikan, al-Dallakiyat, and the government house. The correspondents added that the coastal line between the al- Rahibat circle and Sayniq bridge is coming under heavy Palestinian sniper fire.

Meanwhile, the correspondents said the Army is reinforcing its positions in al-Salihiyah, Kafr Jarrah, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir.

Our correspondent in Sidon Muhammad al-Asad has supplied us with more details:

[Begin recording] The Lebanese Army positions on the Mar Ilyas and al-Ashrafiyah hills are being subjected to mortar and large-caliber machine-gun fire. The Army is returning the fire with precision to settle the situation and complete its task. The main coastal line between Sidon and Sayniq is coming under machine-gun fire.

Calm prevails in the areas of deployment in 'Abra, Majdalyun, al-Salihiyah, Kafr Jarrah, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir, as well as in Baysur, Wadi al-Laymun, al-Mujaydil, Jinsnaya, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and Harat Sayda. The Army positions are being reinforced with tanks and armored vehicles. [end recording]

Three Killed in Fighting; PLO Explains Stance

NC0307093791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Excerpts] According to reports from the south, the sound of explosions is being heard in Sidon as a result of the ongoing clashes between the Army and Palestinian positions. Field and large-caliber artillery are being used in the clashes. The Sidon-Sayniq road is coming under intermittent sniper fire.

According to REUTER, today's clashes have so far left three people dead and five others wounded. [passage omitted]

In another development, Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the PLO chairman, has said: It is not true that we are seeking to have a state within a state, as some claim. We want to coordinate stands with the Lebanese state. Abu-Sharif rejected attempts to disarm the Palestinian people. He maintained that the Palestinian weapons are used for self-defense, particularly since Israel continues to occupy the south.

Abu-Sharif said he had conveyed an urgent message from 'Arafat to the British ambassador in Tunis and a similar one to the U.S. Administration. He said the messages describe the PLO's constructive behavior regarding helping the legitimate Lebanese authority impose its control and safeguard its sovereignty.

'All Parties' Urged To Adhere to Constitution

NC0207203491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 July 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Asked about rumors that there are differences between him and the president of the Republic on sharing executive power, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said: We are friendly with his excellency the president and appreciate him, but we call on all parties to adhere to the rules of the Lebanese Constitution.

Karami Sees No 'Coolness' in U.S. Stance

PM0307132291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 91 p 3

[Tariq Tarshishi report on interview with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On the subject of aid—in connection with which Lebanon faces a Western logic that links its provision, especially by the Western states, to the release of the Western hostages held in Lebanon—Lebanese Prime Minister Lawyer 'Umar Karami has said in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the British minister of state for foreign affairs who visited Beirut recently emphasized the existence of the link between the Western states' provision of aid to Lebanon and the hostages' release. He said: "I asked him for a clarification of this matter and emphasized to him that the Lebanese people and the Lebanese Government are not responsible for that matter. If you link aid to the hostage issue, this means that the Lebanese people and the Lebanese Government are being punished for things that they did not do. So he apologized and said: Perhaps my words have been misunderstood. What I said is that foreign businessmen will be afraid to come to Lebanon before the hostages are

released—which will delay the process of reactivating the Lebanese economy." [passage omitted]

Regarding preparations for the Army's deployment in the south and what contacts with the Palestinian side have achieved, Prime Minister Karami said: "We are monitoring the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. It stipulates the disbandment of the militias and the collection of arms. This will apply to both Lebanese and non-Lebanese. When this decision was made, we made contacts and held talks with all the groups, including the Palestinian brothers. Part of these talks were held in Lebanon and other parts were held in Tunis and Cairo. When a Palestinian delegation visited Damascus recently, this subject was discussed. At all these talks the Palestinian side was positive, and they have announced in the press and in official statements that they will not hinder the course of legitimacy and the extension of authority over all Lebanese territory."

He added: Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul, whom I call "the problem solver," and Major General Nabih Farahat, director general of state security, will complete the talks that have started, and on 30 June the Lebanese Army will head for the south to complete the deployment plan.

With regard to the coolness in the U.S. position on Resolution 425, Prime Minister Karami said: I see no such coolness except in the media. I have said that the Americans have never offered us guarantees. The Americans have told us, and are still telling us: Establish a strong central authority and a strong army and purge the country of the militias and arms, then leave the rest to us. They still maintain that position.

If you ask me whether I have a U.S. guarantee, I will tell you: No. But we are continuing our plan and hope that we will reach a point where all Lebanon's friends will help us to implement Resolution 425, especially since the course of events and the statements originating from all quarters inspire optimism about the peace process in the region as a whole—which would benefit us in the process of implementing Resolution 425. So why do we create such a pessimistic atmosphere regarding the implementation of that resolution?

We are continuing our plan, and I do not see any coolness in the U.S. position in the light of U.S. statements. Of course, we had hoped that the U.S. statement would be stronger and would reach the guarantees stage, but this has not yet happened. However, this should not prevent us from implementing what we are implementing now, because what is important is for the legitimate authority to control all Lebanese territory and to be entirely in charge. This is what the people want, and the march that we have continued for five months is no small one, and it will now be completed. This is in the knowledge that Resolution 425 is not the responsibility of Lebanon alone. It is a comprehensive Arab responsibility and the responsibility of international legitimacy.

Prime Minister Karami denied that the Lebanese Government could have been "at all" informed of any U.S. position on the withdrawal of Palestinian arms. He said: "The Americans did not discuss with us the withdrawal, collection, and so forth, of Palestinian weapons." [passage omitted]

On the issue of General Michel 'Awn, he said: There are various aspects to the issue of General 'Awn. As a state, we respect the principle of separating powers. This is a primary principle.

I informed French Ambassador Rene Ala of the second principle, namely, that nothing is impossible to resolve in the end, as long as it is done calmly, diplomatically, and logically; and this issue cannot be resolved through provocation, challenges, or interference in each other's internal affairs. Anything can be resolved within such a framework.

Papers Hail Lebanese Army Deployment

JN0107113691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Task of Liberation After the Task of Deployment," AL-BA'TH says: With the deployment of the army in the South today, the legitimate government will have spread its sovereignty over all of Lebanon except for the part occupied by the Zionist enemy. Undoubtedly this big step, which enjoys Arab, regional, and international support, headed by Syrian support, will be important toward liberating the South from the occupier and purging its soil of the Zionists' filth.

The national decision adopted by the legitimate government on the army deployment crowns a series of steps that began by eliminating the abnormal situation, realizing Greater Beirut, and last but not least dissolving the militias and absorbing them into the government administrations and army. While the previous measures have led to peace and security in the capital and its suburbs and sparked optimism and confidence in the future for a country which has suffered from painful wounds throughout the years of its ordeal, the army deployment in the South consolidates the atmosphere of reassurance and invokes the responsibility of liberating the occupied part, which is a national responsibility for which the sons of the one homeland should cooperate and join ranks.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Hence, the national decision has originally been coupled with a rejection of any obstacles whatsoever. Therefore, the legitimate government has affirmed that obstruction is not allowed because the deployment task is a national and pan-Arab one at the same time. The south cannot stay away from the north and the east, and the legitimate government should assert itself in all parts, thus the unity of land and people is embodied under the banner of the legitimate government.

The problem remains in the occupied part. Large regional and international efforts are being made to liberate it by implementing Resolution 425 and forcing the Zionist enemy to withdraw from it. In as much as this question poses an obstacle as a result of Israel's intransigence and the enemy's defiance of the international will, it makes it incumbent on the international community to exert further pressure toward implementing the resolution without ignoring Lebanon's legitimate right to liberate its land regardless of the means it employs.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Following the deployment, the task of liberation becomes a priority and the national, pan-Arab, and international efforts should focus on this task.

In a commentary on the same subject headlined "All of Lebanon Goes Southward," TISHRIN says: The people of Sidon today receive with all affection and appreciation the army of the Lebanese Government which has long been absent from the area. Through its presence there, the army will consolidate the authority of the state, constitution, and law, and assume the responsibility of defending the homeland and confronting the Zionist ambitions against its territory and resources.

The deployment in Sidon and its vicinity is but a first stage toward broad and intensive deployment all over the South, and in a way that puts an end to the Israeli occupation and the alleged ministate of Lahd, which is an extension to the Israel cancer as well as a place for hirelings and a base from which the enemy springs to attack the secure inhabitants and destroy their villages, plantations, and farms. Hence, the deployment has more than one meaning. It signifies the rise of the Lebanese state which Israel has planned to destroy. It also signifies the restoration of national unity. The whole of Lebanon, represented by its national army, is today heading for the South to emphasize the unity of the land and people and its determination to restore the part occupied by the Zionist invaders. The deployment also symbolizes Lebanon's Arabism and pan-Arab role. The South was and is still a torch of resistance and its people have scorched the Israeli enemy with their strong fire and turned the life of the occupiers into a real inferno.

TISHRIN goes on to say: It is natural that the advent of the Lebanese army is broadly welcomed by all popular groups and the Palestinian brothers. Throughout the years of the crisis, Israel has wagered on dividing Lebanon from within and turning it into warring sectarian ministates, stealing its water resources, setting up settlements in the South, and expanding at the expense of its population. The conspiratorial Zionist scheme has been contained and foiled, thanks to Syria's vigilance and unlimited support for the Lebanese brothers and its ceaseless efforts over the past 15 years to realize national reconciliation and forestall the Israeli subversion.

The sincere and serious Syrian-Lebanese cooperation has achieved the miracle. Lebanon has not only emerged from the ordeal and restored its national unity, but it is also today efficiently and confidently shouldering the big national and pan-Arab mission of deploying the army in the South and bringing the international community face to face with its responsibilities toward implementing Resolution 425 which calls for the Israeli forces' unconditional withdrawal.

The paper adds: Now that the legitimate government army is carrying out its duties efficiently and responsibly, including the duty of defending the south and spreading the state's authority there, we are dutybound to hail the heroic national Lebanese resistance against the Israeli occupiers over the past years. The national resistance has indeed been a symbol for all of Lebanon and an embodiment of its Arabism and readiness to sacrifice. Undoubtedly, the Zionist enemy, which behaved nervously and brutally in its raids and aggressions over the past months which witnessed the rise of the Lebanese state, will not facilitate the army deployment task, but will place all possible obstacles in the face

of this deployment—a deployment that threatens its presence in particular and shatters all of its pretexts for staying in the South. Lebanon, which has won all previous rounds in its struggle against the conspiracy to divide it, will win this round too and will restore the whole South. The Zionist invaders will be forced to withdraw and implement Resolution 425.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria will always support and back every step Lebanon takes. Syria will never spare any effort to render any possible assistance, especially since southern Lebanon has become, through its struggle and resistance, the south of the Arabs.

Egyptian Minister of Interior, Delegation Arrive

JN0107183691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1818 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 1 July (SANA)—Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, Egyptian interior minister, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this evening for a four-day visit to Syria at the invitation of Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin 2 Jul

JN0207160691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus—The delegations of the Syrian and Egyptian Interior Ministries began their first round of talks today at the Interior Ministry. The talks were co-chaired by Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Harbah welcomed the Egyptian interior minister and his delegation, referring to the existing profound historical, brotherly relations between Syria and Egypt. Dr. Harbah stressed the need to promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries in implementing the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in order to serve the interests of both fraternal peoples.

Dr. Harbah pointed to the importance of meetings between the two Interior Ministries and the exchange of expertise and information, especially since the two ministries have specific experiences in various spheres of their work. He also concentrated on the need for cooperation between the two sides in fighting the drug problem, pointing out that Syria maintains cooperation with a number of Arab and foreign countries to destroy this serious social disease.

For his part, Maj. Gen. Musa expressed his appreciation for the hospitality he and his delegation were accorded, and praised the development of the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries in all spheres. He also stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between the two ministries in all areas, including the exchange of expertise, information, and visits between the various organs in order to serve the mutual interests of both fraternal countries and peoples.

Dr. Muhammad Harbah received Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and his delegation this morning in the presence of the members of the Interior Ministry's delegation and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus. They discussed ways of promoting the brotherly relations between the two countries and issues of common interest.

Al-Shar' Confers With U.S. Congressman

JN0207160991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, Edward Djerejian. The talks centered on current international efforts to convene a peace conference as well as the nature of the procedural and basic obstacles being placed by Israel to prevent the convening of the conference.

Afghanistan

Minister Resigns From Rebel Government

BK0207140491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1342 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 2 (AFP)—The Afghan rebels' self-styled government in exile here lost another of its members Tuesday when "Education Minister" Faruq Azam resigned after accusing a rebel leader of getting too close to the rival Kabul government. Mr. Azam also quit his post as vice president of the National Islamic Front (NIF), but said he would remain a member.

He criticised NIF President Ahmad Gailani [name as received] for opening a "sphere of cooperation with Najib (Afghanistan President Najibullah)," and said the government-in-exile's ministries were "closed" and incapable "of acting even a little bit."

No election has been held since the government in exile's creation in March 1989, following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, said Mr. Azam, who became the second member of the government to resign in less than two months.

Fundamentalist leader Yunis Khalis quit May 5, making complaints similar to those of Mr. Azam. The NIF is one of seven Sunni Islam parties based in this northwestern Pakistan city. The resignation came amid a resolution of diplomatic activity aimed at finding a solution to the Afghan civil war, which began in 1978.

The opposition guerrilla parties, however, remain divided on the peace process.

Mediator Urges Talks Without 'Preconditions'

BK0207110291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1044 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Report by Anosh Ahamath]

[Text] Kabul, July 2 (AFP)—A visiting Swiss mediator said Tuesday that rival Afghan groups must begin peace talks without preconditions and described a dialogue with preconditions as a "non-starter."

Swiss Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Klaus Jacobi told reporters here at the end of a three-day state visit to Afghanistan that Kabul was ready for talks without preconditions and that he hoped to hear the same view from Afghan mujahidin groups when he visits Peshawar. "I have seen the preparedness (of Kabul) to take up talks with other Afghan groups without preconditions and I hope I will hear the same in Peshawar, at least in some of the groups," Mr. Jacobi said.

The Swiss minister was scheduled to leave here Tuesday for Pakistan where he would meet with government officials in Islamabad before travelling to the border city of Peshawar for discussions with the Afghan mujahidin based there.

Mr. Jacobi's comments were seen here as a clear reference to the Peshawar-based Afghan mujahidin resistance call for the resignation of President Najibullah before starting peace talks. "A solution to the Afghan conflict can only come from Afghans themselves. A solution cannot be imposed from the exterior. Dialogue with preconditions is a non-starter," Mr. Jacobi said adding that all Afghans had to make concessions.

In a veiled rejection of the mujahidin position, Mr. Jacobi said a solution "without President Najibullah is not possible, but a solution only with President Najibullah is not possible either."

He said his view was shared by the United Nations which is pursuing its own peace initiative to try to end the 12-year-long Afghan war. Under the U.N. peace plan announced in May, there would be a cessation of hostilities, a transitional period leading to free and fair elections and a halt to arms shipments to both sides from foreign governments. Three extremist mujahidin groups have rejected the U.N. plan while all governments connected to the war have welcomed it.

Mr. Jacobi said Switzerland was participating in a mediation effort only because it had been requested to by "several Afghan parties and groups," and that it was not aimed at sidelining or competing with the U.N. "Swiss involvement is not at all intended to compete with the efforts of the secretary general of the United Nations or his personal representative Benon Sevan," Mr. Jacobi said.

Switzerland, he said, had no vested interest in Afghanistan and with its reputation of neutrality it had always been Swiss policy to help in peace mediation. "Our activity takes place within the framework of the United Nations. We hope to facilitate and speed up the implementation of the U.N. plan," he said.

"No one can remain indifferent to the tragedy of the Afghan people ... Now everyone should be prepared to implement the (U.N.) plan."

During his visit to Afghanistan, the first by a Western minister in a decade, Mr. Jacobi met with Mr. Najibullah and also with Mr. Sevan who concluded a separate visit to Kabul on Sunday. He said Switzerland was ready to help organise contacts between rival Afghans in a step by step process in a different country.

Diplomats here said Switzerland was trying to arrange traditional Loya Jirga (Supreme Assembly) of all Afghan parties and groups in Geneva.

Prime Minister Receives Swiss Minister of State

LD0107182291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister's press office reports that this afternoon esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, received His Excellency Klaus Jacobi, state minister for external affairs of Switzerland, and his accompanying delegation in his office.

During this meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Daud Kawian, Khaliqyar expressed pleasure at meeting the guest delegation. He said he considers the cooperation between the two countries as beneficial and important in achieving a political solution to issue of Afghanistan. Khaliqyar praised the international prestige, credibility, and positive and active stand of Switzerland as a neutral and peace-loving country in connection with the solution of issues related to Afghanistan. He expressed confidence that Switzerland's efforts and measures can play a valuable role in bringing Afghans together and in the peaceful solution of this Afghan problem.

The prime minister welcomed the initiative of Switzerland aimed at goodwill efforts among the Afghans, and said: We are ready to talk and negotiations with our Afghan brothers without any precondition. For Afghans are brothers and are weary from the suffering of the painful war. They need an effective means to gather them around one table. Fortunately, Switzerland is a leader in this and contributes to the peaceful solution of Afghanistan's problems.

The prime minister informed the guest delegation about the structure of the government and the ways it fulfills its duties in connection with national reconciliation and the prosperity of Afghanistan's people. He asked the international community to pay serious attention in supplying humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people simultaneously with the beginning and continuation of talks with Afghanistan.

For his part, Klaus Jacobi, minister of state for external affairs of Switzerland, stated that a political solution can only be achieved by the Afghans themselves. It is necessary that Afghans should sit around the negotiations table to reach an agreement in this respect and resolve their issues themselves. Having referred to his country's readiness to participate in ensuring peace in Afghanistan, Klaus Jacobi said that Switzerland is ready to make all necessary efforts to bring Afghans closer together. He stressed that a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem can be achieved by means of cease-fire, talks, and understanding among the Afghans. It is necessary that a stable and peaceful situation should be established in the country in order to reconstruct Afghanistan and to remove the pains and suffering of the war.

The meeting ended in a climate of mutual understanding and useful exchanges of views on topics of mutual interest.

Government Troops Foil Mojahedin Attack

BK0307064191 Islamabad THE NATION in English 2 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Peshawar—The Afghan Mojahedin well prepared attack on Jalalabad was foiled by the Najib Government troops guarding the provincial Capital of Nangarhar.

According to an Afghan Mojahed Commander the attack was started on June 29 last and continued till next day evening. During the attack the Mojahedin, he added, wanted to hit the Najib Government's tanks, parked on the main Torkham Jalalabad road near to Samarkhel but in vain. The Najib Government's tanks hit the Mojahedin's vehicle in the area which created problems for them, he remarked.

The Commander who pleaded not to be named said that Mojahedin attacked on the Samarkhel garrison from Gardigas and Perkand sides but as a result of severe bombing and shelling the attacks were foiled. Attack, he said initiated under the decision of Mojahedin's joint Council. He informed that a number of Mojahedin received injuries as a result of land mines planted by both the Mojahedin and Najib government troops around Samarkhel garrison.

It may be added that Afghan Mojahedin after capturing of Khowst and facing failure in Logar, was planning to launch a massive attack on Jalalabad and for this purpose they collected a huge quantity of weapons across the border. But the said planning does not yet seem to be successful due to internal clashes amongst Mojahedin ranks. It was reported that all of Mojahedin groups based around Jalalabab city were suffering from internal clashes from the last couple of weeks.

Meanwhile, the Media official organ of the Interim Government confirmed killing of one Mojahid Samarkhel in with skirmishes with the Najib Government troops. The agency confirmed severe bombing of the Najib Government air planes on the Mojahedin's positions around and Samarkhel areas.

On the other hand, the Al-bunyan news service reported that Mojahedin have conducted a successful raid on the security belt of Kabul city long range missiles on Sunday last destroying one tank and two armour cars. It further said that Mojahedin repulsed the Najib Government troops attack on Khanabed district of Kunduz province.

Bangladesh

Eleven Injured in Day-Long Battle Between Groups

BK0307145391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1431 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Dhaka, July 3 (AFP)—At least 11 people were hurt, two of them seriously, during day-long gun fight Wednesday between rival student groups at a major Bangladesh college, witnesses said.

Student supporters of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the opposition Awami League traded gunfire in Jagannath College here as they battled for control of a dormitory building, the witnesses said, adding that several passers-by were hurt in the incident. Nine people were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where two were in serious condition with bullet wounds in their chests, doctors said.

Police were deployed heavily around the college but they did not take any immediate action.

At least four people have been killed in a spate of student violence plaguing Dhaka University and several other institutions during the past several weeks.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia recently appealed for calm but the clashes have continued unabated.

Bills on Parliamentary Government, President

BK0207171091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Two historic constitutional amendment bills—one providing for switchover to parliamentary form of government and the other providing for the return of the acting president to his original post—were introduced in the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this evening. The Constitution 12th Amendment Bill 1991 providing for parliamentary system was tabled by the leader of the house and prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia. Prior to the introduction of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said her government has decided to bring this historic bill before this house with a view to translating into reality the hopes and aspirations of the people. This will pave the way for reversion to parliamentary system of government based solidly on democratic foundation. In this connection, the prime minister reiterated her government's firm determination to give democracy a permanent institutional shape for ensuring a brighter tomorrow for our present and future generations. She however reminded all concerned [that] to redeem the high pledges [is] not an easy task, and it needs spontaneous cooperation of all, including the politicians.

Describing the present parliament as the product of nine years of relentless struggle against the autocratic rule of General Ershad, the leader of the house who is also chairperson of the ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], said that her party has earned the respect and confidence of the people for its uncompromising role during those dark days. She gave the assurance that her party will remain as before with the people in their will and [word indistinct]. The leader of the house made a clarion call to all members of the Sangsad irrespective of their party affiliations to create a new history by unanimously passing the bill and involve themselves in this unique process. She however maintained that both parliamentary and presidential systems could ensure welfare of the people and at the same time both can give birth to autocracy.

Concluding her statement, the prime minister expressed the hope that keeping in mind the supreme interests of the people, the members will debate with an open mind. She also said that difference of opinion in politics is nothing new. But we must be on our guard, so that petty differences could not harm any noble task and there lies the political acumen.

Taking the floor after introduction of the bill, the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina said, though late, she welcomed it. She however demanded that the constitutional amendment bill submitted by them two and half months before should also be placed before the house and considered simultaneously along with the bill introduced by the treasury bench.

Welcoming the bill, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party said it was an auspicious moment that the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill has been introduced in the house. He thanked the prime minister for showing respect to the wishes of the people. Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury of NDP [National Democratic Party] also hailed the bill and said through this introduction the leader of the house has demonstrated her sincerity and given recognition to the wishes of the people. He however called for setting up of a select committee to examine the bill thoroughly before its passage. Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-i-Islami said he was happy that the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill has been introduced to fulfill the long-cherished desire of the people. He described the introduction of the bill as a victory of the people.

The Constitution 11th Amendment Bill introduced by Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz provides for ratification and confirmation of the appointment of Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as vice president and the exercise and performance of the powers and functions of the president by him. It also seeks to ratify all laws and ordinances made and all acts and things done and all actions taken by him. The bill further provides for his return to the office of the chief justice of Bangladesh according to the assurances given to him by the people and the principal political alliances.

Rahman To Visit USSR To Discuss Ties

BK0307020091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman is to pay a three-day official visit to the Soviet Union beginning from the ninth of this month. The visit will take place at the invitation of the Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksander Bessmertnykh. The forthcoming visit is expected to provide a fresh impetus to the Bangladesh-Soviet friendly bilateral ties. The entire gamut of bilateral relations will come up for discussion when the Bangladesh foreign minister will meet his Soviet counterpart in Moscow.

Minister To Search for 'Opportunities' in Tehran

BK2906155791 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] State Minister for Labor and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mian has gone to Tehran in search of job opportunities for Bangladeshi doctors and technicians. Mr.

Rafiqul Islam Mian is carrying a message from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

India

Reportage on Kidnapped Tourist, Oil Official

Rebels Say Hostage To Meet UN Official

BK0207145291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1419 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, July 2 (AFP)—An Israeli tourist being held by Muslim militants in Kashmir will meet a United Nations representative, the group holding him said here Tuesday.

The powerful Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said the representative, whom it did not identify, had agreed to meet Ya'ir Yitzhaqi, 25, at "an undisclosed destination" in this summer capital of Kashmir.

The U.N. official had promised to come "without security or weapons", a JKLF spokesman said.

It did not say when the meeting would take place and there was no confirmation of the JKLF announcement from the federally-controlled Kashmir State Government or the U.N. office in New Delhi.

It was not clear if the meeting was a prelude to the Israeli's release.

Mr. Yitzhaqi was one of eight tourists who fought back after being attacked by gunmen from a group opposed to the JKLF June 27, triggering a gunfight which left one Israeli and two Muslim militants dead.

Three Israeli were also injured.

A JKLF spokesman had said Monday that the group had no intention of holding Mr. Yitzhaqi for long and that it would hand him over to a U.N. team as soon as one arrived from Kashmir.

The U.N. maintains an observers' office in Kashmir, which is disputed by India and Pakistan and the JKLF statement did not say if the U.N. official who is to meet Mr. Yitzhaqi was based here.

Release Talks Held

BK0207162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, authorities have established contacts with the militants and talks are going on to secure the release of IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] official, Mr. Doraiswamy, and the Israeli tourist kidnapped in separate incidents. Agency reports from Srinagar says that the militants have extended the deadline till 1200 tomorrow for the freeing of three of their accomplices in exchange of the release of Mr. Doraiswamy.

Country Reiterates Policy of 'Good Relations'

BK0307095891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has reiterated India's policy of having good relations with all, including Pakistan and China. He, however, asserted that if any neighboring country does not want to resolve the outstanding issues, our forces are in a position to meet the challenges. Mr. Pawar was addressing the officers and jawans [soldiers] in the forward divisions in the Siachen Glacier area yesterday. Mr. Pawar referred to Pakistan's continuous efforts to create trouble in Punjab and Kashmir areas and said this is harming the country in a big way. The resources meant for the welfare of the people are being diverted to defense purposes. The minister complimented the officers and jawans for their dedication to protect the country despite the very hostile conditions in which they are living. Mr. Pawar assured them that the government will do everything possible to minimize their difficulties.

Daily Criticizes China's Missile Sales

BK2806123191 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 91 p 11

[Editorial: "A Sinister Deal"]

[Text] The confirmation by China that it has sold missiles to Pakistan, though they have not yet been delivered, raises serious doubts whether Washington's efforts to discourage an arms race in the Indo-Pak subcontinent would bear fruit without exercising a restraint on Beijing. It is not as though a strategic relation has suddenly developed between Islamabad and Beijing. Ever since relations soured between India and China in the wake of their border war in 1962 and after Pakistan acted as honest broker between Beijing and Washington, China has been a major steady source of defence hardware and technology for Pakistan. There is little doubt that India's threat perception along its northern frontier has been significantly sustained by China's consistent and increasingly closer defence ties with Pakistan. Beijing's promotion of Pakistan as a military counterweight to India may have had a local wisdom, but it forced India to see them together as a source of threat. The situation has not changed despite the improvement in Sino-Indian relations in the past two years. In fact, it has considerably worsened because, during this period, Pakistan has virtually acquired a nuclear weapons capability and has engaged itself in perfecting a delivery system. Beijing's missile sale to Isalamabad, therefore, assumes a sinister implication for India.

Perhaps the United States realises that the China factor could frustrate efforts at promoting peace in South Asia. Apparently that prompted it to issue a warning this week that the sale of Chinese missiles technology to Pakistan—and Syria—would have "profound consequences" on Sino-American relations. Beijing has sought to make light of US concerns by explaining that the missiles it has sold—reportedly the M-11—have a range of only 180 kilometres, and are in the category of Pakistan's own

shortrange missiles which can hit targets only within 85 kilometres. The underlying suggestion is that the Chinese missiles for Pakistan have military relevance only for Afghanistan, a proposition that may not be galling to the US. But Washington knows that in the past its military hardware supplied to Pakistan to resist Communist threat had been used against India. In the light of such experience and in the context of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, the Chinese missiles pose a bigger threat to India than to any other neighbour of Pakistan. Maybe, this would help the US to appreciate India's opposition to a regional non-proliferation regime for South Asia. Like peace, the nuclear threat to mankind is also indivisible.

Li Peng To Visit on Rao's Invitation

BK0207161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, is to visit India and mutually convenient dates of the visit are to be worked out through diplomatic channels. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has invited Mr. Li Peng in response to a goodwill message sent on his assumption of office as prime minister. Mr. Li referred to the progress achieved in Sino-Indian relations and expressed confidence that these will further improve.

Five 'Militants' Killed in Punjab, One Rescued

BK0307033891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, five militants were killed and one kidnapped person rescued in separate incidents since last evening. According to an official spokesman, two of the tihree militants who had kidnapped the owner of a cotton mill yesterday were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Basti Pathama area. The mill owner has been rescued.

Pakistani Troops Fire at Border Posts in Kashmir

BK0207160291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistani troops resorted to heavy unprovoked firing on Indian posts in the Keran subsector of Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday [29 June] and yesterday. According to an official press release in New Delhi, the Pakistani troops used mortars and rockets during the firing. Indian troops have so far exercised restraint in accordance with the spirit of the understanding arrived at between the directors general of the military operations of the two countries on the seventh of May. The firing and use of mortars and rockets by the Pakistani troops is in breach of the understanding.

Rao on IMF, Lok Sabha Speaker, Punjab Poll

BK0307042491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that the IMF [International Monetary Fund] has nothing to do with the downward revision of rupee value in relation to major foreign currencies. Speaking to a Bombay daily, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the finance minister has already clarified that in a situation of floating currencies the term devaluation has no meaning. Asked if the depreciation of rupee value will shoot up the prices of petroleum products, Mr. Rao said the government will not allow anything to go out of control.

In reply to a question whether the government is going in for an IMF loan, the prime minister said this decision has been taken much earlier.

On the election of speaker, the prime minister said the Lok Sabha speaker should be from the ruling party as in every country.

Asked whether elections can be held in Punjab, Mr. Rao said the government is closely examining all aspects of the situation in the state and will come out with its finding within a few days.

Minister Meets With Opposition Leaders

BK2806163391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Government says it will continue its consultations with opposition parties and will take them into confidence on major national issues. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, told newsmen in New Delhi today that he met various opposition leaders during the week and is confident that the government will get their cooperation. He said he gathered the impression during his meeting with opposition leaders, that they were not interested to face another election and wanted the government to last. Mr. Azad said the leaders whom he met included former prime ministers, Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Chandra Shekhar; Mr. L.K. Advani of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mr. Indrajit Gupta of CPI [Communist Party of India], Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet of CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr. P. Upendra of Telugu Desam, and Mr. Chitta Basu of Forward Bloc. Mr. Azad said the post of the speaker in the new Lok Sabha should in principle go to the ruling party. He said he expected opposition parties to follow the long-standing convention in this regard. The minister said the government will take a decision on this issue after ascertaining the views of the opposition.

Iran

Velayati: 'No Obstacle' to Iraqi Delegation Visit

NC2906143191 Paris AFP in English 1419 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 29 June (AFP)—Iraq is welcome to send a delegation to Iran, following contacts between the two

sides in recent weeks, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Saturday.

Despite a thaw last year, ties between Baghdad and Tehran have soured since the Iraqi army put down a Shiite revolt in the south of the country in March. The two countries were at war from 1980-1988.

"If the Iraqis want to send a delegation to Tehran, there is no obstacle," Mr. Velayati told a press conference, adding that the two countries had been in contact in recent weeks through their charges d'affaires.

The Iranian foreign minister laid down conditions for Iraq to play a role in future security arrangements for the Gulf. "If Iraq has a political regime that respects the rights of others and wishes to cooperate with Gulf countries, we will not be against it," Mr. Velayati said.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, meanwhile, cited an Iraqi opposition report that 50 people had been killed and 200 injured in Iraqi helicopter raids on Shiite refugees in the marshes of southern Iraq. There was no independent confirmation of the report, which was broadcast on an opposition radio monitored by IRNA.

Habibi Cited on Nuclear Plant, Economic Issues

LD0207115391 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 2 Jul 91

["Habibi: Germany Should Finish Bushehr Plant, Single Rate of Foreign Exchange Not Applicable in Near Future"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, 2 July, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi said here Tuesday that Iran and Germany have a valid contract on construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant and that the project must be implemented.

Speaking in his weekly press conference, he added that in light of the existing relations between the two countries, the German Government must sort out the issue with the German contractors.

He added President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials in talks with German Minister of Economics Juergen Moellemann, who left Tehran Monday at the end of a two-day visit, called for resumption of the work on the project.

Turning to the national economy, he said according to government approval businessmen can import goods without getting the needed foreign exchange from the government sources or securing special permits.

Under the new regulation the importers are only required to pay 10 percent of the value of the goods to the government as trading profit.

The move intends to do away with the unnecessary problems on imports and exports.

As for government endorsement of formation of "the organization for development of Sistan", he said that it will operate as a company affiliated to the plan and budget organization. The initial capital of the organization is rls. two billion, and its initial task will be implementing projects on land developments and water supply system of the province.

On recent remarks by an economic official calling for removing gold as the monetary backing, Habibi said that it was only a proposal.

Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli said a few days ago that production will be the backbone of the monetary system because gold cannot guarantee the country's national monetary power.

Habibi added that under the law, the Central Bank must have a gold backing equivalant to 25 percent of the issued banknotes.

He added that introduction of a single rate for foreign currency is under study and will not be applied in the near future.

Minister Denies Planes Held in Saudi Arabia

LD0207152391 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 2 July, IRNA—The roads and transport minister as well as a deputy foreign minister have denied reports that eight Iranian passenger planes have been detained by the Saudi Government, a Persian daily wrote here today.

The daily ETTELA'AT quoting Road and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia and a deputy foreign minister which it did not name, said that the report was completely unfounded.

The Saudi Government too denied the report as "absolutely baseless" Tuesday. The SAUDI PRESS AGENCY quoted an official civil aviation source as having regretted "the fabrication of such mischievous reports".

A newly-launched afternoon newspaper in Tehran on Sunday reported that eight Iranian planes had been seized by Riyadh on behalf of Kuwait when they arrived in Jiddah to transfer home Iranian hajj pilgrims.

The passenger planes of the Islamic Republic Airlines (Iran Air) are now busy flying home more than 110,000 Iranian pilgrims who have performed their hajj this year.

Daily on Prosecutor-General's Remarks on Reporters

NC2206111691 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 17 Jun 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Should Reporters Not Be Present at Open Trials?"]

[Text] In a meeting with reporters, the nation's respected prosecutor-general stated: Open courts do not mean reporters can attend them.

What is the meaning behind open courts? Does an open court not mean that those interested in a case can attend it? Are reporters, lawyers, and judicial authorities to interpret the meaning of open courts? The interpretation the esteemed prosecutor-general gave, however, has prompted one question in the news media.

If reporters are not allowed to attend open courts, then how can society be informed of open court activities? If the duty of the press is to inform people, how can reporters not be granted the permission to attend open courts?

When the prosecutor-general's interpretation of press duties is such, how will those unfamiliar with the law and the duties of the press interpret the issue?

If we want to encourage observing the law, the first step is to inform the people. The press is one of the main pillars in this endeavor, and reporters are the hardest-working people in the media.

Daily Comments on Habibi Remarks

NC2706131591 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Truth, the Antidote to False Rumors"]

[Text] Last Monday First Vice-President Dr. Hasan Habibi appeared as government spokesman before representatives of the public media and answered questions on various social and political topics.

In view of the recent developments on the international political scene, the extraordinary growth of the communication systems, and the indirect and even direct effects which internal changes in the remotest parts of the world can exert on the fate of the other nations, plus the very active role which the Islamic Republic of Iran has assumed in the regional and international affairs, the need for the appointment of a government spokesman was in fact being felt for some time.

The social and political maturity of people in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and their constant presence in the arena of social and political events, always coupled with timely responses in times of adversity, make it incumbent on the government to maintain an uninterrupted relation with the public and to inform them on world issues and new developments in local affairs.

It is true that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his cabinet members always take the time to talk to people and share with them their views on national and world affairs. Nevertheless the presence of a government spokesman on the level of the first vice-president was felt to be long overdue for the Islamic Republic of Iran which has undertaken a highly significant and determining role in international and regional scene.

The need for rapid decision-making and fast reactions to emergencies which are liable to arise in the highly critical situation prevailing in the region, is among the factors which have to be taken into consideration in this connection. And as rumors regarding the government's responses and measures spread with almost lightning speed and result in unnecessary and at times illogical confrontations, the timely correction of falsehoods mixed with half-truths is of utmost importance.

On the international level also the Islamic Republic has always been the target of unfair propaganda which are conducted with sophisticated methods of distorting truth or creating suspicions by indirect suggestions.

In view of the significance of the issues involved, it is to be hoped that Dr. Habibi will appear before the representatives of the public media not only at regular intervals, but also as soon as unusual circumstances justify it. This will help to maintain the truth and confidence of the people by informing them of new developments in local and world affairs and will also act as a deterrent to the spread of fabricated rumors that poison naive minds.

Daily Says UN Should Act to Save Iraqi People

NC2706115991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The People of Iraq Should Not be Forgotten"]

[Text] The allied forces are to begin to pull out of northern Iraq, while almost concurrently an American military source revealed that the present allied military capability in northern Iraq and southern Turkey constituted only 42 percent of what it had been at its height on 21 May.

Certainly the presence of allied forces in the region had lost all justification after the expulsion of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. On the other hand the Iraqi regime's performance in the past decade has deprived it of the last vestige of legitimacy, and the present revolutionary movements by the people of Iraq were only the natural consequence of the Ba'thist regime's treatment of its own nation. And this revolutionary movement would have led to the overthrow of the Baghdad regime if things had been allowed to take their natural course.

Now with the withdrawal of the allied forces the resistant groups in Iraq have an exceptional opportunity to form a unified front irrespective of their ethnic demands and fight for the establishment of a government which would represent the political aspirations of all the Iraqi population.

But if certain groups were to continue to be lured by unreliable prospects of restricted privileges, the resultant rift in the ranks of the resistant groups would enable the Baghdad regime to engage in a systematic and stage by stage suppression and extermination of all the groups.

The recent experience of the Shi'a Muslims in the southern regions of Iraq, who were driven to take refuge in the marshlands and face death by starvation and epidemic diseases, is only an example of how ruthless and at the same time cunning, the Iraqi regime can be in its elimination of the opposition groups.

Thus there could be no doubt that any promise of concessions from the Baghdad regime is nothing but a cunning stratagem to gain time and prevent the unification of the opposition groups. And it is highly improbable that any progress towards democratization of political atmosphere in Iraq could come about under the present government.

With the destruction of the Iraqi war machine up to a great extent and the economic burdens and shackles imposed on it by the victors, there could be no threat from Iraq—at least for the time being—to the regional countries. Furthermore the improving relations among the other countries in the area have brought about favorable conditions for all-round cooperations including the establihment of a local security scheme for the region.

In such circumstances, when the brutal Iraqi regime is still in power and there are reports that it is posed to launch an outright attack against its own people specially those Muslims who are trapped in the marshlands the ouster of the allied forces will definitely put the lives of millions in danger.

No doubt that the allied forces who are responsible for the present deteriorating situation in Iraq shoulder great responsibility toward the plight of the Iraqi people, but their presence, however, is not welcomed in that country as in the long-term it will result in their domination.

Here the UN should take appropriate action which may save the future of the people of Iraq. What mechanism should be adopted by the UN is a matter of serious consideration and it can be debated at various levels including that of the Security Council.

What is necessary at this time is that the people of Iraq should not be left at the mercy of the brutal and bloodthirsty regime in Baghdad.

Nepal & Bhutan

Central Bank Devalues Rupee Eight Percent

BK0207104891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 2 (AFP)—Nepal has decided to devalue its rupee by eight percent against the U.S. dollar, a senior official of Nepal's Central Bank said Tuesday.

The new official exchange rate will be 38 Nepalese rupees to the greenback, up from about 35.3 rupees, the official from the central Nepal Rastra Bank said, adding that the decision was taken after a day-long meeting between officials from the bank and the country's Finance Ministry.

The Nepalese currency was also devalued by 1.8 percent against the Indian rupee, while the rate against major hard currencies such as the yen, the Deutschmark and the British pound will continue to be fixed daily according to international market prices, the official said.

The official announcement did not explain why the rupee was devalued more against the dollar than against its Indian counterpart.

An important business official said the devaluation would boost inflation.

"All imports from third countries outside India are expected to be more expensive by 12 percent (when) taking into account the customs and excise duties, sales and other taxes," said Maheswore Lal Pradhan, president of the Federation of Industry and Commerce of Nepal.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's finance advisor, Ram Sharan Mahat, said the devaluation was necessary. "We are working for the new budget in a very constrained economic situation against the people's big expectation for economic relief," Mr. Mahat told reporters.

"Various measures are being taken in the new budget to mend the economic anomalies created by the 31-year rule of the Panchayat system," the partyless form of government that was brought down by mass unrest last year.

Mr. Mahat said he would favour a lifting of restrictions on foreign currency, as was done recently in Pakistan, as well as the promotion of industry through a more active private sector.

Mr. Koirala's government has also pledged to stabilise the local market by controlling the black market and fighting government corruption.

Meanwhile, labour unrest is adding to Nepal's serious economic difficulties, with a major civil servants' union threatening industrial action if a number of its demands for more generous benefits are not met.

Central Bank Suspends Foreign Currency Trading

BK0307100591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 3 (AFP)—Nepal's central bank ordered Wednesday a nationwide halt in all trading of foreign currencies, including the Indian rupee. Officials with the central bank, the Nepal Rastra Bank, said trading would remain suspended until further notice following the second devaluation this week of the Indian rupee.

Given Nepal's heavy economic interdependence with India, New Delhi's decision to devalue its currency by almost 19 per cent against the dollar this week makes a further adjustment of the Nepalese currency inevitable, said a top bank official, who asked to remain anonymous.

"We have to discuss (the most recent Indian devaluation) at length before we announce the fresh move towards the revaluation or devaluation of the Nepalese currency against the Indian currency and U.S. dollar," the official said.

Nepal had announced Tuesday an eight percent devaluation of its currency against the dollar following Monday's devaluation of the Indian rupee.

Sources inside the Nepal Chamber of Commerce and the Nepal Federation of Industry and Commerce predicted the Nepal Rastra Bank could announce a new exchange rate as early as Wednesday evening.

Tuesday's devaluation was followed later in the day by price increases of as much as 10 percent for many imported goods, including newsprint.

Local newspapers and consumers have strongly criticised the state-run National Trading Corporation for raising prices on imported goods, saying it had encouraged unscrupulous businessmen to increase the price of many daily necessities.

Pakistan

Officials Prepare List of Suspected Terrorists

BK0207160791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Karachi, July 2 (AFP)—Authorities in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province have prepared a list of about 2,000 activists of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for possible arrest as alleged terrorists, official sources said Tuesday.

The announcement followed a federal cabinet decision to crack down on political violence.

Most of the 2,000 were convicted of martial law offences between 1977 and 1985 under the rule of former president Zia-ul-Haq, the sources said, alleging that many belonged to a PPP wing called "al- Zulfikar."

PPP leader Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan until her ouster last year, had pardoned a number of them from prison, the sources said.

The PPP, however, denied any links to a group named al-Zulkifar, and said the government's tactics are aimed at crushing it politically.

Amid what the government has described as a seriously deteriorating law and order situation in the province, more than 1,000 people have been arrested since the June 18 murder of a special anti-terrorism court judge.

Sharif Discusses Saudi Ties, India, Afghanistan

BK0307070091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Islamic countries and will provide all sorts of assistance for strengthening the defense of the brethren. In an interview with the Saudi newspaper (Okaz), he said Pakistan has the necessary means for defense of any Islamic country. The prime minister said Pakistan is ready to cooperate in restoring peace in the Gulf region. He pointed out Pakistan's very close relations with Saudi Arabia and said our friendship is a time-tested one. He said he is paying special attention to further strengthening these relations. He understands that protection of Ha'rmain-Sharifain [the two sanctuaries of Mecca and Medina] is the protection of Pakistan itself.

About relations with India, the prime minister said he wants to improve relations with India, but solution of the Kashmir problem is necessary to achieve this goal. If India wants sincere friendship with Pakistan, it should come forward to solve this longstanding problem. Nawaz Sharif said that if India wants to solve the Kashmir problem through bilateral negotiations, Pakistan will welcome it. The prime minister also mentioned atrocities in occupied Kashmir and said Indian Armed Forces are violating human rights on a large scale. Such a situation is extremely regrettable.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said Pakistan is playing its role to resolve the Afghan problem in accordance with the desires of the Afghan people.

Sharif reiterated Pakistan's support to Palestinians and said he will stand firm on this issue.

Ordinance Promulgated For Surrender of Weapons

BK0207170091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The president has promulgated the Surrender of Illicit Arms Ordinance 1991. It provides for the surrender of illicit arms and improvement and control of the law and order situation. It shall come into force in such areas and on such days as the Federal Government (?made) it by notification in the official gazette a point, and different days [words indistinct] in respect of different areas.

All persons in possession or control of any illicit arms shall surrender such arms within such time as is notified by the Federal Government to the deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner, and officer in charge of a police station within his jurisdiction such persons ordinarily reside, or to such other authority as may be specified by the Federal Government by notification in the official gazette.

The ordinance says whoever fails to surrender illicit arms to be punished ranging from three years to life imprisonment and forfeiture of his property in accordance with antecedent of [words indistinct].

It says that whoever fails to present his license for possessing or keeping any arms, ammunition or explosives shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend for 10 years, but shall not be less than three years, and confiscation of such arms, ammunition, and explosives.

'Large Peaceful' Election Held in Azad Kashmir

BK2906113591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Polling for the 40-member legislative assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was over a short while ago in the 28 constituencies in Azad territory and in 12 constituencies for Jammu and Kashmir refugees residing in Pakistan. Radio Pakistan's representatives from different parts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan reported that polling was held in an orderly and by and large peaceful manner.

Bangladeshi Minister Stops in Karachi 2 Jul

BK0207160491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman has said that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation foreign ministers meeting will particularly discuss the promotion of peace in the region in addition to improvement of collective socioeconomic condition. This was stated by him while talking to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN prior to his departure for Male from Karachi this evening.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Pesalai Boss Killed; Arms Recovered

BK0307102391 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0957 GMT 3 Jul 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 3 July (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE leader for Pesalai and three other terrorists were shot dead by the security forces on the north-east coast of the Mannar Island Tuesday.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the soldiers, who carried out the operation between Erukkalampiddy and Pesalai, had surprised the terrorists in a scrub jungle covered area. All four terrorists were shot dead by the soldiers following a brief exchange of fire. One of the terrorists was identified as the LTTE leader for Pesalai.

Two T-56 rifles, T-81 hand grenades, and communications equipment were also recovered from the [word indistinct].

This small band of terrorists were reported responsible for the killings of nine policemen in the Mannar island several months ago as well as for the shooting of a UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] vehicle recently.

Meanwhile, in Sampur, Trincomalee, soldiers who concluded a three-day operation against the LTTE have recovered several weapons, ammunition, uniforms, foodstuff and other items during attacks on several terrorists hideouts in the jungles. About six terrorists were also killed during the operation.

LTTE Planned Colombo, Wijeratne Bombings

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["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 3 July (LANKAPUVATH)—The crack squad of CDB [Crime Detection Bureau] detectives investigating the June 21 terrorist bomb blast at the Defence Ministry's Operational Headquarters in Colombo have found that the gelignite explosives for the bomb were brought to Colombo from Jaffna by the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] bomb expert Ravi Shankar two weeks before the explosion.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that the back up LTTE bomber for the 70 kilo JOC [Joint Operations Command] bomb, now under arrest, was reported to have told detectives that he and Chandran the (?22) year-old bomber who died in the explosion, belonged to the LTTE military wing in Jaffna.

The two had been sent to Jaffna on the orders of LTTE leadership which had begun planning the bomb explosions at the JOC and the one which killed plantation industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne, six months ago.

The two bombers had been lodged in an annexe down a seaside lane at Dehiwela, a suburb eight kilometres from Colombo.

The explosives brought from Jaffna were stored in a safehouse, down a residential lane in Wellawatte (Colombo-6).

The explosives had been taken to the house down a lane in Ratmalana where the mastermind Varadan lived with his 20-year-old mistress, a receptionist at a communications bureau in Wellawatte-2.

Police said the LTTE's Colombo leader had paid Rupees [Rs.] 200,000/- cash in 1,000 rupee notes to the owner of the house as payment in full for a one year lease.

The couple had lived in this safehouse until June 25, when the news broke that the chassis number of the blue Isuzu car bomb vehicle had been found. They had left in a hurry. The mastermind has not been seen since then.

Varadan, who also did the purchasing for the LTTE in Colombo, was described by detectives as a lavish spender.

The bomb had been assembled in the Ratmalana house by Ravi Shankar on June 19, two days before the 70 kilo bomb blast which killed 21 and wounded 100, wrecked the JOC, several other buildings, including many houses, and destroyed 20 cars and damaged 30.

On this day, the mastermind Varadan and the bomber had gone out in the blue Isuzu half truck from the Ratmalana house and done a rehersal of the bombing at the JOC.

Police said they were confident that the mastermind Varadan and the explosives expert were still in Colombo.

Varadan (32), who hails from Point Pedro, Jaffna is an ex-bus conductor who has allegedly committed three murders, an attempted murder and six robberies, including Rs. 36 million worth of gold from the Peoples Bank at Kathankudy in Batticaloa.

He was arrested and placed under detention at the maximum security Welikade jail in August 1982 after the signing of the Indo- Lanka accord. He was a member of the Tamil Eelam Army who became an active LTTE military wing cadre after his release from prison.

Police said the entire LTTE bomb squad of 32 terrorists, including Varadan's three mistresses were now in custody.

The squad of crack detectives investigating the JOC and Ranjan Wijeratne assassination bomb explosions were reported closing in on the mastermind Varadan and explosives expert Ravi Shankar.